

EDITORIAL

The Twentieth Year

ON October 12, 1939, at the Annual Meeting of the American Society of Anesthetists, Dr. Paul M. Wood, Chairman of the Committee on Publications, read a report that was to be the origin of the journal *ANESTHESIOLOGY*. Dr. Wood's report began, "The Journal Committee finds that a strong publication in Anesthesiology is requested by Society anesthetists, librarians, medical schools, and hospitals. . . ." After enumerating other findings, Dr. Wood said, "Therefore, the Committee on Publications recommends that it be empowered to proceed with the establishment of a journal on the following plan as modified by its Editorial Board." A motion to this effect was made by Dr. Sydney Wiggan, seconded by Dr. Moses Krakow, and carried.

There followed in the next several weeks a series of meetings with Dr. Wood as the driving force. On November 4, 1939, the Journal and Publishing Committees, consisting of Drs. R. B. Hammond, E. A. Rovenstine, H. S. Ruth, B. C. Sword, I. B. Taylor, R. M. Tovell, and P. M. Wood met and discussed the financial aspects of publishing a journal. Since no funds were available to underwrite the venture, the interest of the Society's membership questionable, and no member of the committee experienced in editorial or publishing affairs, the task before the committee was great. At the conclusion of this meeting, Dr. Ruth was elected Editor; Drs. Tovell and Rovenstine, Associate Editors; and Dr. Wood, Business Manager of the journal for which the name *ANESTHESIOLOGY* was selected. These men were to select the remainder of the Editorial Board, subject to the approval of the American Society of Anesthesiologists.

After further numerous and urgent meetings, the astounding result was that on July 1, 1940, the first issue of *ANESTHESIOLOGY* was published by Lancaster Press. It is difficult to conceive how within seven months the entire framework of a regular scientific publication could be organized, how manuscripts could

be solicited, edited, set up in galley proof, re-edited, and published. Today, with a smoothly functioning organization, the average time between receipt of a manuscript and publication is six months. Even more amazing is the caliber of the articles published in the first volume. It contains some of the finest reports ever published in the *JOURNAL*. The burden of this early work fell principally upon Drs. Ruth and Wood, ably supported by Drs. Rovenstine and Tovell.

For years, the editorial offices were maintained, without cost to the Society, in Dr. Ruth's home, while the business affairs were managed by Dr. Wood in New York. In 1943, with Dr. Wood's resignation, the business office was moved to Philadelphia, to be housed separately from the editorial offices. By the end of its first decade of publication, the *JOURNAL*'s circulation had grown from the 608 copies subscribed for the first issue to 4844 copies, of which 21 per cent were mailed to foreign lands. Production costs were \$41,276.00, of which about \$8,700.00 came from members of the American Society of Anesthesiologists on the basis of a \$3.00 allocation per member.

Dr. Frederick Haugen, as Business Manager, and Dr. Ruth moved to strengthen and simplify *JOURNAL* activities. The necessity of combining the editorial and business offices was apparent. This was accomplished in 1949, simultaneously with the appointment of Miss Dorothea Taeffner as Executive Manager. It was no longer necessary for a physician to direct the *JOURNAL*'s daily financial affairs. Growth continued. By 1953, the circulation had increased to 6820 copies per issue, 1,565 of which were to foreign subscribers. The production expense had correspondingly increased to \$57,009.00, 31 per cent of which came from the \$4.00 per member allotment from the American Society of Anesthesiologists. During this year, 136 articles were received for publication and the volume for the year

contained 638 pages of text. It was at this time that Dr. Tovell became Acting Editor, during Dr. Ruth's illness, and subsequently Editor upon Dr. Ruth's resignation.

Under Dr. Tovell's guidance, many changes appeared in the JOURNAL; the cover changed, new sections were added and old ones rejuvenated or deleted. The circulation continued to expand. In 1958, 210 articles were received for publication, and the number of text pages for the year increased to 843; the circulation reached 9750, of which 2200 were foreign subscriptions; the annual cost of production amounted to \$118,440.00 as of June, 1958, of which 26 per cent came from American Society of Anesthesiologists \$5.00 member subscriptions.

Now, in its twentieth year, ANESTHESIOLOGY has arrived at its present stature because of long and untiring efforts of relatively few people, both within and without the Society. While others have made significant contributions, the outstanding work of the late Henry Ruth and of Paul Wood and Ralph Tovell places them high in the group who have made important contributions to our Society and spe-

cialty. We owe all of them a debt of gratitude. The present Editor and Editorial Board wishes publicly to recognize the devoted effort and many years of work on behalf of ANESTHESIOLOGY by Dr. Tovell. None can doubt that under his direction the JOURNAL has greatly improved. Fortunately for his successors, he has consented to offer assistance and advice when needed.

The business of publishing the JOURNAL has expanded to a point where practicing physicians cannot do all of the work required. Considerable credit for the publication as it now exists must go to Mrs. Dorothea Taeffner Wall and to her loyal staff. The Society is privileged to have people of such caliber working for it. All members of the Society are urged to visit the Journal offices and meet the staff when in or near Philadelphia.

Growth of the JOURNAL should continue as the specialty enlarges, the membership of the Society increases, the caliber of the scientific work published in the JOURNAL becomes more evident, and foreign interest is broadened. The day may not be far away when ANESTHESIOLOGY can take its place among the major scientific publications of the world.

ANNUAL MEETING

THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF ANESTHESIOLOGISTS, INC.

October 5-9, 1959

Bal Harbour (Miami Area), Florida