

Oration from 1966

Oration Title:

Medical Education: A Challenge to the Community Hospital

Orator:

Edmund J. Croce, M.D.

Abstract of Oration:

Dr. Croce begins by describing the rapid increase of post-graduate medical education programs and positions following World War II. He provides many statistics to illustrate the boom in medical education in the decades after the war.

He then explains the recommendations made by the Coggeshall Report on medical education in America which "briefly reviews the history of medical education in the US, then analyzes the major trends of the present day and their implications ... and finally attempts to advise this association [the AAMC] regarding the greatly expanded role which it should rightfully assume in the future." The report's proposal advises that new medical schools be centered around a campus to promote interdisciplinary science efforts, "increasing relationships with groups not directly involved in the education of physicians but nevertheless important to this goal, and stronger relationships with non-physician medical professional groups and with government agencies." Croce believes that a stronger relationship to hospitals, especially teaching hospitals, should be included as well.

Current medical education is disjointed, with medical schools separate from post-graduate residency and fellowship programs. Croce describes the state of medical school education, then focuses on graduate programs. He acknowledges a growing gap between medical school-affiliated hospitals and non-affiliated community hospitals. The former attracts medical school graduates and the highest quality teaching staff, leaving the latter with little ability to compete to become an accredited teaching facility. It cannot provide the teaching experiences and research opportunities necessary for accreditation.