

Oration from 1987

Oration Title:

Has the Time Come to Regulate the Regulators?

Orator:

Saul K. Lerner, M.D.

Abstract of Oration:

Dr. Lerner played a leading role in developing a model regionalized maternity care program in Worcester. He describes the Foley Bill which came into existence after his program's inception, and which he believes has crippled American hospitals. It enforced budget cutbacks and income caps, and resulted in personnel layoffs, especially of nurses. Patients are being discharged from the hospital earlier than is sometimes medically advisable, and an increasing number of patients are being treated in ambulatory units to expedite the treatment process. Consequently, the nursing staff that is already stretched thin is caring for patients whose condition warrants hospitalization, and therefore requires more work, and their salary does not match their workload.