

tion, the need to meet increased health costs and the necessity to more efficiently integrate specialty services in health care, group practice seems ideally suited to meet those requirements.

Three avenues of approach seem open for group practice. The first is to expand group practice by hospital and clinic staffs shifting the emphasis to paying patients with adequate and proper payment for the practitioners who are on a full-time basis. The second mode of expansion would be in terms of private group practice in the group clinic where comprehensive services are offered properly utilizing the talents of specialists. The third area of growth extension would be by allying health insurance with the above two types of group practice assuring a sound prepayment plan and an economic base for the group.

Dr. Will Mayo summed up the case for group practice when he said:

"As we men of medicine grow in learning, we more justly appreciate our dependence upon each other. It has become necessary to develop medicine as a cooperative science, the clinician, the scientist, the specialist and the laboratory workers uniting for the good of the patient. The people will demand, the medical profession will supply, adequate means for the proper care of patients which means that individualism in medicine can no longer exist. . ."⁵⁴

Perhaps the most important ingredient, more than any other, in the development and creativity of group practice—and, indeed, in all new forms for the betterment of the administration of health services will be the willingness of the professions and its practitioners to work for progress in health care. That may, and probably will, mean an abandonment of the traditional concepts of solo practice. The literary wisdom of that great Belgian, Maurice Maeterlinck, is especially applicable.

"At every crossway on the road that leads to the future, each progressive spirit is opposed by a thousand men appointed to guard the past. Let us have no fear lest the fair towers of former days be sufficiently defended. The least that the most timid among us can do is not to add to the immense dead weight which nature drags along. . ."⁵⁵

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