

family medicine. This training typically occurs in medical institutions, including university hospitals, military and Government hospitals, larger private hospitals, and some community hospitals. After such experience many physicians take advanced examinations, known as Board Examinations, to become certified as specialists. At this point the physician is probably as highly trained technically as he will ever be in his life, and he enters the practice of medicine, the product of an extended and expensive educational process.

#### POST-GRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION

From this point on, the physician is in large part left to his own devices to maintain and update his fund of knowledge. He can maintain his university contacts by joining a clinical teaching faculty, an excellent approach to staying abreast of advancing medical knowledge, but an opportunity usually available only to Board-Certified specialists in cities with medical schools. He can also seek out any of a number of short courses sponsored by specialty societies and conducted in medical institutions. He can also read the medical literature, attend medical meetings, and take advantage of a variety of audio-visual presentations, either in the privacy of his car, home, or office, or in staff meetings at his local hospital.

In recent years, several States and specialty societies have recognized the physician's need for continuing education to keep his medical knowledge current and have attempted to encourage greater efforts at self-education. These States and societies have imposed on the physician