

FOREWORD

WHAT IS THE AMA?

It is the publisher of the world-famous *Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA)*; ten medical specialty journals; a family health magazine; a newspaper for physicians and others interested in the socio-economic aspects of medicine, and numerous books, proceedings, reports and papers on medical science and medical care.

It is the sponsor or co-sponsor of approximately a thousand meetings, large and small, every year on a host of scientific and non-scientific subjects of interest to physicians and others in the health field.

It is a primary source of medical and health information for the public, the government, schools and writers of books, newspaper stories, magazine articles or television scripts.

Alone, or jointly with other health and scientific organizations, it is the accrediting body for hospitals, extended care facilities, medical schools, internships, continuing education programs for physicians, and educational courses for persons pursuing allied health professions and occupations.

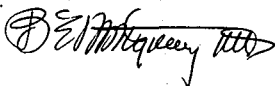
More than anything else, however, the AMA is a state of mind . . . a state of mind that aspires to that of the man honored on the cover of this report.

Socrates sought the truth, and in imparting it to his generation, passed it to all succeeding generations. Physicians, too, seek truth and impart it to their colleagues, to their professional successors and to society so that mankind may live not only a longer life, but a better, richer life.

As an organization, the AMA reflects the desire of physicians to join together for the "maintenance of their honor and respectability, for the advancement of their knowledge and the extension of their usefulness"—as the Association founders said in 1846.

It also manifests the belief stated in the last two years by the House of Delegates that "the health and well-being of the patient has always been—and must continue to be—the first concern of the physician," and that "adequate health care should be available to all who need it."

This report of some of the activities of the AMA for the year 1968 is designed to highlight the diverse programs in which the AMA is engaged. I commend it to your attention and I hope you will find it useful as a source of information.



Burtis E. Montgomery, MD
Chairman
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