

About half of them (26) say that they attend practically every county medical society meeting and a fourth (13) think that they miss only one or two local meetings a year.

The record for attendance at state and national conventions during the preceding year was held by one of the older doctors, Dr. G.O.P. A.; and all but six doctors had attended at least one convention. The average number of state and national conventions attended was 1.8 per physician. Only one doctor in the area does not belong to the American Medical Association.

In addition, 38 of the doctors had been present at one or more meetings of other professional organizations. Each of the 38 mentioned two organizations on the average, and some attended several meetings.

Comments about Other Doctors as Information Sources

Despite their frequent meetings and contacts with other physicians and their own sometimes contradictory testimony when speaking later about learning of specific drugs, most doctors do not give much general credit to other members of the profession for telling them of new pharmaceutical products.

Here are some of the exceptions who state that they often learn of new drugs from other doctors --

Dr. G.P. R.: "Now that I think about it, I place my professional contacts in first importance."

Dr. G.P. J.: "You talk these things over with fellows specializing in certain fields and use what they recommend in referred cases."

Dr. P.T. F.: "Other doctors help considerably in passing along information on new products. Furadantin is a case in point. I first heard of it from Specialist A."

Dr. P.T. D.: "Undoubtedly the best is a direct recommendation from another physician whose professional standing is unquestioned. When I really want to know about a drug in a hurry, I call my friends at the hospital."

Dr. G.P. M.: "I think you feel better about a new drug if you hear about it at a medical meeting -- somebody else's experience with side effects and so on."

More typical of the statements made by other physicians are these:

Dr. P. T. J.: "Once in a while the doctors will get together and talk about it after meetings."

Dr. G.P. H.: "Specific discussions between doctors on new products are the exception rather than the rule, except in cases of consultation."