Editorial Comment

What a proud profession—such a privilege—and what an awesome responsibility. You are heart-lung-kidneys-to your fellow man! Nowhere else in medicine is a patient’s life so very nearly held in a technologist’s hands. How tall we all must stand to be worthy to be members of such a proud profession.

The relatively young, but rapidly evolving art of extracorporeal technology needs people like you, technologists who are dedicated. Does that word sound corny, perhaps archaic? Then you must give me a better word to describe the long hours, the sleepless nights, the deep concern, the bitter frustration of defeat and that wonderful, wonderful feeling of satisfaction when life is saved and/or made more livable.

Certainly you will agree our profession is important. Then you are important. Because you are the professions—it can only be as great as the sum of its parts. All the sophisticated machinery in the world can accomplish nothing without that Tender Loving Care put in by human beings.

Since being important carries with it the responsibility of doing a job well—no, not merely well—we must do the best job possible. We must be aware of the latest technological developments. We must continue to educate ourselves with new and better techniques. Keeping abreast of changing trends in thinking is all important in the art of extracorporeal technology.

How best to serve your fellowman—the medical community—your proud profession and yourself? One of the best ways we know of is through your Society.

A professional Society, such as ours, is not an end in itself. It is merely a tool of service to mankind—our profession and you! Really, how can you do all the things you must do in order to stand tall and be good partners in a proud profession without the help of a professional Society such as Am.S.E.C.T.? With Am.S.E.C.T. you are given the opportunity through regional and national meetings, through Newsletters and Journals to share, to participate and to develop professionally.

To share is to grow, to participate is to learn, in professional development we gain. The opportunity is here, it is yours to grasp. Never were the words “you get out of something in proportion to what you put into it” more applicable than they are here in regard to your profession—you—and your Society.

The Society can serve the profession and you only as well as you will allow it. To be truly representative of the technology, Am.S.E.C.T.

The officers of today are utterly dependent on you, the members. It is their privilege and responsibility to hold aloft but for a brief time the brightly burning torch of Am.S.E.C.T. You, the members of this proud professions, must stand ready to take this torch and keep up the race.

It has been our privilege to be part of serving the profession and you be beginning the important job of certification. As we told the members of our Medical Advisory Board, “You are involved in setting standards for machines, but there are no standards set for the people who run these machines.” They agreed that here was indeed a serious lack. So as a means of upgrading our patient care, our most important goal, we will further serve our profession and you by helping set these standards in our first certification examinations.

This job is just begun—it must be completed. There are many jobs to be done, many opportunities to be grasped, many privileges to be seized upon, much responsibility to be borne. You are part of a great profession. We are sure the potentials of extracorporeal technology have just begun to be tapped. Will you again, in your lifetime, have the opportunity to help shape the destiny of such a fine profession?

The Society is here—to be used as a tool—to serve our profession and you. Only you can use that tool well and only then can that tool, your Society, serve you and your profession well. Only then can it become the means to the tremendous goals we seek.

Kathryn

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