



CHAPTER XI

PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS—1983 Jerome C. Goldstein, MD

First and foremost, let me express my deep and sincere gratitude to the membership for the privilege of serving as president. For years, this Society has been near and dear to my heart. That it has been a significant moving force in otolaryngology was clearly dramatized to me in the preparation of its history. I feel honored to have had the chance to serve it and I feel humble when I remember the strong men who guided it in the past.

Let me give thanks to two Georges. Those who know me well have heard me say that I have had the best of both. I was one of George Reed's first residents in Syracuse. I spent my first three postgraduate years with George Sisson. Both were instrumental in my training and maturation as a surgeon and were moving forces in the evolution of this Society. When I began my appointment as Secretary of this Society, George Reed was the first President I served. If it was not for George Sisson, this meeting might not be occurring, for not only was he of importance in the founding of this Society, but he served for nine years as its first Secretary. As Historian, many aspects of our celebration here are testimony to his efforts, especially the historical transactions. I cannot tell you how many hours George and Mary Alice have spent in its production. I was witness to only a few. This book represents an accomplishment which will be appreciated for many years to come.

It is appropriate to make a few remarks concerning the Head and Neck Fellowship programs sponsored by the Joint Committee for Postgraduate Training. The efforts of George Sisson and others in insisting upon quality training in head and neck surgery for graduates of otolaryngology training programs have been of great importance. The reality of the fellowship programs is testimony to the persistent efforts of one man, Dr. John Loré. Jack has served as Chairman of the Joint Committee for its entire existence. He was the catalyst and work-horse throughout this time and whenever the pace slowed, Jack was there to quicken it and to give it new energy. A warm "thank you" to him for his efforts.

It is traditional that in a Presidential Address one focuses on some of the problems that beset medical practice. This is always a fruitful subject. I choose to consider the increasing competition among physicians for patients and the escalating cost of medical care. It seems obvious that the two are intimately related. I was one of 5000 who graduated in 1963 from 78 medical schools. Today, there are 126 medical schools which for over a decade have been graduating 15,000 students or more each year. A comparable number of FMG's have also been absorbed into our work force each year. The health planners naively thought that the competition from this new wave would bring about a reduction in charges and a redistribution of physicians who would be encouraged to seek financial security in the hinterlands of this country. But it has not worked, to the chagrin of the health planners, and to the irritation of budget makers. For, according to Say's Law, "supply creates its own demand". As Dr. Lawrence Tremonti told the AMA Section on Medical Schools last year, the increased number of graduates has had no effect on the shortage of physicians in certain areas. The reason is very simple. The pie was so rich that even the crumbs that were left over after the slicing were enough to sustain the ones who came late to the table. Unfortunately, the amount of legitimate pathology which is properly