

## **"Why A Professional Meeting?"**

Traditionally, the professional meeting serves many needs. Of these, four are, perhaps, of primary importance. The first need is that of individual professional enrichment and is served by a professional program featuring leaders in all phases of the Technology speaking on timely topics of vital interest. It is served, too, by the availability of exhibits portraying the latest in the tools of the Technology and trained specialists to explain their importance and function.

Secondly, there is the need for individual professional contribution, the opportunity for the technologist, doctor, administrator, engineer, or manufacturer to share his experience, knowledge, and viewpoint with his colleagues. Of course, this, too, is satisfied through participation in the formal program, through panel discussions, through group discussions, through the exhibits, and, also, through informal "after-session" get-togethers.

There is a need to develop and solidify the strength of the organization. All members, in a democratic professional society such as ours, have the opportunity and duty to participate in serving this need. Executive Board Meetings and individual committee meetings are scheduled with the express purpose of developing, in accordance with the blueprint-plan of action of the Society, the plans for the coming year.

You, the members of AmSECT, are invited and urged to attend these sessions—in particular, those scheduled for Thursday, July 17th—and offer your views, constructive criticism, and comments. These will be incorporated into programs developed for presentation and approval at the corporate business meeting scheduled for Friday afternoon, July 18th. Your cooperation in developing the destiny of your Society and your Technology is not only desirable but urgently necessary.

There are four program areas, identified in our blueprint, to be further implemented:

- 1. Membership—so that your Society might serve the patient and the Technology via the other three programs.*
- 2. Information—so that our purpose, the dissemination of information, may be fulfilled by way of the Journal and annual and chapter conferences.*
- 3. Liaison—to effect a functioning dialogue with other professional medical organizations, the educational community, and the general public.*
- 4. Certification and Education—to identify and establish, in conjunction with other professional medical organizations and the educational community, basic minimum standards of practice and develop curricula to meet the rising demand for practitioners of the Technology.*

Finally, the fourth need to be served by a professional meeting is that of comradeship, the opportunity to meet one another, discuss the practice of the Technology informally, and participate together in the social activities. This need is satisfied, formally, by the social hour and banquet to be held on Saturday evening and, informally, by the many opportunities for personal contact throughout the days and evenings of the conference.

You are invited to join with us for the Eighth International Conference of your Society in Detroit, Michigan, at the Statler-Hilton Hotel. Featured this year is a three-day scientific session of which we are very proud because it fulfills all of the needs of a professional meeting. Plan on convening with us July 17th, 18th, and 19th.

*Jim Wade*