

Editorial Comment

"It is not so much a question of why we don't know more than we do but, rather, why so much escapes us!"

My high school math teacher.

According to Dr. Carl Kjellstrand, nephrologist at the University of Minnesota, 400 Minnesotans become potential candidates for dialysis each year—and this is just one of 50 states. Similarly, someone has been recently quoted as saying 40,000 to 50,000 persons enter the patient pool of individuals who could benefit from coronary artery surgery each year. Do we reflect upon these data as merely "job security" for the many technicians, technologists, doctors, nurses, and manufacturers employed by the Technology?

Hardly! We look upon it as a medical challenge to meet the total needs of the community in which we live and serve. Likewise, each of us, as an individual, strives to become better—PERSONAL PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT we like to call it—in that area of the Technology in which we work.

Why is professional development important to us? If we honestly examine our own consciences, it is for greater income, greater personal prestige and status, greater personal satisfaction, or a combination of all three (with varying degrees of each).

So we grow as individuals. But, in the light of the data from the opening paragraph, a certain number of us will most assuredly become candidates for dialysis, cardiac surgery, or other services of the Technology. WHICH OF YOUR COLLEAGUES WOULD YOU ALLOW TO SERVE YOU OR A MEMBER OF YOUR FAMILY? A corny question? Let's talk about it.

Paramedical personnel, allied health occupations, or whatever term you prefer to use, are with us not only to stay but to increase. Not only dialysis technologists and nurses, pump-oxygenator technologists, and cardio-pulmonary laboratory personnel, but physicians assistants (and aren't we all physicians assistants?) and others as well.

If you are a doctor, think about the technologists who work with you, and those that you have known. If you are

a technologist, think about your friends and colleagues in your own profession and those whom you know in other facets of the Technology. If you are a manufacturer's representative, a bio-engineer, or a designer, think about the technologists you serve and/or with whom you work. Seriously, which of these, if any, would you choose to serve a member of your family or yourself?

You know how much you know about the Technology, and how much new information you are learning every day. Do you wonder if everyone else is doing likewise? Do you wonder if he has your opportunities for learning available to him? Do you wonder if he can or will take the time to avail himself of these opportunities? What can you, as a technologist, doctor, nurse, bio-engineer, or manufacturer do to increase and magnify the opportunity for learning available to your friends, colleagues, and business associates in the Technology?

In a word, it's SHARE! The Journal was born to be a medium of exchange, a "bulletin board" for all members of the Technology to use to SHARE their ideas, opinions, and experiences. This opportunity to exchange professional information has been utilized by persons devoted to the Technology who want to be a part of its growth as a profession. They want their colleagues to have an opportunity to learn what they know.

The JOURNAL is in a period of constant growth. Readership is increasing daily. There is a strong and growing possibility we may evolve from quarterly to bi-monthly publication. But it is still YOUR Journal and its growth is still dependent upon your willingness to SHARE. It is a *thrill* to plant your footprints in the sands of time—to share with your colleagues the light of your experience and learning!

Ed Berger