

## Continuing Education

Heading the AmSECT list of innovations is the Continuing Education Subcommittee of the Certification Education Committee. Some time ago, Paul Simon wrote of, "people talking without speaking, people hearing without listening" and "no one dare disturb the sounds of silence". Unfortunately, some feel we are approaching the brink of impending doom by beginning such an endeavor. This, I hope, represents a minority opinion. We cannot afford more delay. We are involved within a field in which the multi-faceted technology will move ahead and leave us standing with the line clamps in our hesitant hands.

But let's take a look at the AmSECT continuing education package. It has been a prime topic within our society for a number of years. The results have been somewhat meager and unrewarding. The national convention has been the main source of continuing education for the membership. Each year a basics course is given to both the dialysis technician and the perfusionist. It is unfortunate that many members cannot attend the national convention. They, therefore, have not been able to take advantage of the continuing education programs of the society. An attempt has been made in the past to add material to the Journal which would be construed as continuing education. This, however, has been spotty and, by and large, incomplete. In an attempt to remedy this problem, the continuing education committee has been formed. The aim of the committee is to set forth a very positive continuing education program. In addition to the national convention, a special section in the Journal will be devoted only to continuing education. This will include not only special articles, but also sample quizzes and short features about techniques.

A list of educational films is being compiled which will be of value to regions as meeting supplements. An extensive bibliography on dialysis and perfusions is being developed. Negotiations are underway to establish a "Medlars" type of service so that any member who wishes to write an article can ask the national office for reference material. A program for making available lectures on cassette tapes is being developed. A variety of subjects of interest both to dialysis and heart-lung perfusionists is being developed and will be made available to the membership at a nominal fee. A similar series using slides and tapes is being developed for regional meetings. With the possibility of retesting for future certification, it is imperative that a strong continuing education program be established by the society. It is the aim of the subcommittee on continuing education to develop the best program possible. Naturally, at all times, comments and suggestions are welcome from the membership.

Realizing that this is only the first step, we are not attempting to deal with hours of credit or the distinction of Continuing Education Units (CEU). Signe S. Cooper, R.N., Chairman of ANA Council on Continuing Education, in the September 1973 AORN Journal stated that "continuing education includes more than organized, formal courses, and often definitions of continuing education place too much emphasis on formal course work. Each of us learns in his own peculiar way, and as continuing learners, we select those ways most useful to us."

Not so very long ago, for us to sit down and outline areas of weakness or problem areas would have been akin to opening Pandora's Box. Today, thank goodness, we can do it. And we frequently call the effort Continuing Education.

—Emily