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President's Page

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Slogans are both exciting and comforting, but they are also powerful opiates for the conscience.

J. B. Conant (6/17/34)

The more the Marble wastes, the more the Statue grows.
Michelangelo

We came upon these two epigrams as we were planning this final President's Page and hoped they would express the theme of this message.

It has been a great privilege and honor to serve the Federation this past year. The office of President is a forceful reminder of how difficult it is to live up to the wonderful aims and purposes of our Federation. Our national programs have an extent and depth that cannot be readily achieved even with the wholehearted participation of our 7,000 members. For example, the health care of the religious is an integral part of our daily practice of medicine. The effective support of a program such as Dr. James Nix envisions, with systematized health care records suitable for future study and research, is a difficult task to place upon the shoulders of an already busy physician. The plan is certainly worthwhile, almost mandatory, if we are to preserve the health of our overworked religious by using our medical experiences for the success of this overall plan. Indeed, the other major committees have equally important programs that must be pursued. Only the Lord knows how the busy practitioner, the dedicated medical teacher or a research man can devote himself to the countless chores of his daily life and still have time to be an active participant as a Guild member of the National Federation.

Surely we must chisel the hard marble of our slogans into the solid living statues of accomplishment. Our experiences as President, with almost daily evidence of the efforts and work of the various committee chairmen, have impressed upon us how much is being done by so few. Their anxieties, and at times their frustration, with apparently small return for great efforts reveal their deep concern. However, we think the Federation has built very firm foundations for the continuing growth and development of our major endeavors. We are confident that the sound programs will reap great harvests as the efforts of our individual Guilds are more and more involved.

Finally, I would like to thank again all of the officers and committees for their fine achievements and devoted work. Miss Jean Read has continued to do the impossible as business manager and executive director of our activities. I would especially like to thank Dr. Harold Haley and Dr. Fred Taylor for the enormous amount of work that has gone into their preparations for our Second Annual Seminar held in Chicago November 5-6 on Medical Care of the Family. The most worthwhile expression of thanks to them and to the Federation is an outstanding attendance at this program.

We look forward to your wholehearted support in the aims and programs of the National Federation.

GERARD P. J. GRIFFIN, M.D.