

APPENDIX B

Recommendations of the Committee on the Costs of Medical Care

Group Practice

The committee favored providing medical care through organized groups of physicians, nurses, dentists, pharmacists, and other health care personnel. It advocated groups organized around hospitals and capable of furnishing “complete home, office, and hospital care.” It recommended that the organization maintain and preserve the high standards of the professions, and develop and preserve good personal relations between doctors and patients.

Public Health Service

The committee recommended the extension of all basic public health services, whether provided by government agencies or not, so that they would be available to all persons when needed. This action implied more financial support for health departments and more trained health officers and staff—with tenure dependent only on professional and administrative experience.

Group Payment

Group payment to defray the costs of medical care through an insurance plan, through taxation, or through a combination of those methods was recommended by the committee. Group payment could be optional and in addition to the existing plan of individuals’ paying fees for services. Cash benefits from workmen’s compensation should be considered “separate and distinct” from medical services.

Medical Service Appraisals

State and local medical service appraisals were recommended through agencies to be formed for studying and coordinating medical service. The committee said that coordination of rural and urban services should be given special attention.

Appendix B

Professional Education

Several suggestions were made about professional education.

1. The training of physicians should emphasize the teaching of health and preventive medicine, and more effort should be made to train health officers.
2. The social aspects of medical practice should be given proper attention.
3. The practice of specialties should be restricted to persons well qualified.
4. Dental students should be given a broader education.
5. The education of pharmacists should stress opportunities for public service.
6. Nursing education should be remolded to provide well-educated and well-qualified registered nurses.
7. Trained and competent nurse's aides and attendants should be provided.
8. Adequate training should be provided for nurse-midwives.
9. Opportunities should be provided for the systematic training of hospital and clinical administrators.