

## APPENDIX E

### *Foreword to the Report of the Commission on Hospital Care\**

This report is presented to the American people as a guide to the future development of hospital care. It appears at a time when there is wide interest in the problem and great need for extending hospital facilities. The Commission has developed a plan for integrating and extending hospital service in a way which it believes is workable and desirable—one which will strengthen and improve the present method of organization and distribution of hospital care. It is hoped the report will prove useful in planning the expansion of hospital facilities throughout the country.

Neither funds nor time permitted a comprehensive study of all phases of hospital care and interrelated health services. Rather than spread its work thinly over the entire field of institutional care, attention was focused upon the function and scope of service of the general hospital. It is urged that other groups add to this report through studies of other types of hospital service.

The Commission recognized that hospital care is a personal service which must be organized and effected by the residents of the area who use the facilities. Therefore, major emphasis during the two years of the Commission's work was placed upon the establishment and guidance of study groups in the various states. In its pilot study in Michigan, the staff developed procedures and methods of study and outlined a basic plan for that state which would serve as a work pattern for other states. The Commission's proposed study procedure is being used in forty states where studies are under way, and it is expected it will be followed in other states when studies are launched.

The results of the work of state study groups will be far-reaching and will continue to be felt as long as they function effectively. The state study phase of the Commission's efforts can be reported now only in terms of number of projects begun and their present status. The history of the state study action program will record the long-time value and full extent of the work of the Commission on Hospital Care. Through this program, a means has been established whereby the planning phases of its activity will be given purpose and meaning.

In its study of the general hospital, the Commission inquired into the

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manner in which service was organized and the ways in which it could be made more effective. It studied methods by which hospital care could be extended to greater numbers of people. It prepared formulas by means of which the need for hospital facilities can be determined. It assembled background material for use by students of hospital problems so that they might better understand the influences and forces which have combined to create the present pattern of hospital service.

These assembled data are offered as a source book of basic information and suggestions to individuals and groups who are responsible for or interested in the improvement of hospital care.

The Commission was fortunate in having the assistance of many national organizations, especially those in the hospital, medical, dental, and nursing fields. We are deeply indebted to these groups as well as to many other organizations and individuals who contributed much to this study.

I cannot let this opportunity pass to express to Doctor Bachmeyer and the staff who worked with him my personal appreciation for their untiring efforts throughout all stages of this study. Without their diligence, cooperation, and willingness to give unselfishly, not only of their services but of themselves as well, the successful completion of this project could not have been accomplished.

Thomas S. Gates  
*Chairman*