

Preface

When we began the hospital oral history project we were not certain what would eventually result. We did know that the hospital field was relatively young, that its history was for the most part poorly documented, and that many of the people who had made that history were still available to tell their stories. Our goal was to capture those stories while the opportunity still existed and to share them.

The results of this simply stated objective have exceeded our most optimistic hopes. Out of the oral history project have come over 40 published reminiscences, a historical collection in the library of the American Hospital Association, Asa S. Bacon Memorial, and this book. More oral history publications are in progress, and the historical collection is growing into a major national resource.

We have been special beneficiaries of this project. Through collecting the oral histories we have not only learned a great deal, but have also become friends with many people about whom we had only read before. Both as individuals and as a group the people whose stories are told in this book are outstanding achievers. They were able to turn their dreams of what could be into reality. Their contribution to American society has been invaluable. We hope this book meets the standards they have set.

In preparing this volume we have remained true to the spirit of the comments made by all the persons interviewed. From time to time we have edited their remarks to make them “read” as smooth as they sound. If in this process there have been errors of either omission or commission, the re-

sponsibiity for them lies with us. The credit for any contribution which this work might make, however, lies with the persons interviewed.

This book is the result of the critical appraisal of many individuals besides us. Most of the persons whose oral histories we have quoted, plus other persons with knowledge of the era covered by the book, read all or significant segments of the manuscript. Among those to whom we owe a great expression of thanks are Faye G. Abdellah, George Bugbee, Wilbur Cohen, Nelson Cruikshank, Robert M. Cunningham, Jr., Leon Davis, the late I. S. Falk, Gary L. Filerman, Joan S. Guy, James Hague, James Hamilton, John R. Mannix, Walter J. McNerney, Wilbur Mills, John S. Mills, Maurice Norby, Andrew Pattullo, Daniel Pettengil, C. Rufus Rorem, William Rothman, Robert Sigmond, Kenneth Williamson, and Lynn Wimmer.

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Lewis E. Weeks
Howard J. Berman