

News from the Society

This issue of MEDICOLEGAL NEWS is the last that will be published quarterly. Beginning in February of 1980, MEDICOLEGAL NEWS will be published six times per year and will include a number of new columns on such topics as health planning, handicapped persons and the law, workers' compensation, and hospital labor law. The *Medicolegal Reference Shelf* section will continue to grow and will remain the most up-to-date, comprehensive source of reference information on medicolegal topics and health law. We encourage readers of MEDICOLEGAL NEWS to submit appropriate manuscripts for publication and to communicate through letters their thoughts on subjects covered in the articles appearing in each issue of MEDICOLEGAL NEWS.

The expansion of MEDICOLEGAL NEWS is only part of the efforts of the American Society of Law & Medicine to become a national clearinghouse on medicolegal matters and health law. One of the most significant achievements is the creation of the *Library of Law, Medicine & Health Care*. Named for Society President, Elliot L. Sagall, and his wife, Annette, the new Library is presently cataloging its collection of books, texts, and journals. Members of the Society will soon receive notice of the specialized services the library will provide, including individualized bibliographic searches on medicolegal issues and the circulation of duplicate books. It is anticipated that the Library, which is located adjacent to the Society's headquarters, will initially publicize its services and resources through MEDICOLEGAL NEWS. A grant to considerably expand the Library and its services is currently under consideration by the National Library of Medicine. While outside funding will assure that our goals are achieved, the Society is firmly committed to establishing the Library.

Another new venture is *NURSING LAW & ETHICS* — a monthly newsletter for nurses. The new publication will be edited by George J. Annas, J.D., M.P.H., and Jane L. Greenlaw, R.N., M.S., J.D. The first issue will be available by mid-December 1979. Each issue will include articles on current legal pitfalls and theories affecting the practicing nurse as well as columns on current health law, ethical dilemma situations, and a readers' advice column. An outstanding editorial advisory board has been assembled to direct the project which will provide nurses with the up-

to-date legal and ethical information they seek and need to fulfill their professional responsibilities.

Unlike our other publications, *NURSING LAW & ETHICS* will not be distributed as a benefit of Society membership. Individual annual subscriptions have been set at \$30 for ten issues. Specially-priced bulk subscriptions are also available for organizations or institutions desiring to distribute *NURSING LAW & ETHICS*, to their students or staff. For more information, please write: Executive Editor, *NURSING LAW & ETHICS*, American Society of Law & Medicine, 520 Commonwealth Avenue, Boston, MA 02215.

The Society's conference series has been well received and is also expanding. Four programs were recently concluded: *Critical Issues in Health Law* in Washington, D.C.; *Legal and Ethical Aspects of Health Care for Children* in Toronto, Ontario; *Legal and Ethical Aspects of Treatment for the Critically and Terminally Ill Patient* in Detroit, Michigan; and *Legal Controversies in Nursing* in San Francisco. We intend to publish proceedings from the Detroit and Toronto meetings. Each attracted a large diverse audience of professionals and generated considerable interest in the topics discussed.

Presently, planning is underway on a series of four programs — in New York, Los Angeles, Minneapolis, and Chicago — modeled after the Detroit *Critically and Terminally Ill Patient* conference. The programs, which are being planned for mid-1980, will most likely be presented in conjunction with the state medical, hospital, nursing and bar associations.

Two programs dealing with setting and implementing medical standards, especially in the context of disability and workers' compensation, are being planned for September and October of 1980 in San Francisco and Washington, D.C. These meetings are outgrowths of the Society's very successful program in Cherry Hill, New Jersey — *Heart and Lung Disease and Workers' Compensation* — and are expected to attract a diverse audience of attorneys, medical professionals, administrators, and adjudicators.

Also in the planning stages is a national conference on patient rights, scheduled for September 1980 in Nashville, Tennessee, and four other *Legal Controversies in Nursing* programs in Denver, Houston, Alexandria, Virginia, and Boston.

Members of the Society have re-

cently been advised of a new Speakers' Bureau established by the Society. Members interested in speaking on specific medicolegal issues are invited to submit appropriate biographical information along with their requirements concerning expenses and location to the Society. This information will be made available to organizations who contact the Society looking for a speaker expert in a specific area of medicolegal relations or health law. The Society plans to engage in a nation-wide promotion to inform national, state, and regional organizations of the availability of the ASLM Speakers' Bureau.

Members of the Society have also recently been mailed the Society's first membership directory. This directory will enable members to identify and communicate with other Society members in their own area.

As 1979 ends, the American Society of Law & Medicine is in its strongest position ever. Its reputation for excellence in medicolegal publishing is consistently being affirmed by each new issue of the *AMERICAN JOURNAL OF LAW & MEDICINE* and *MEDICOLEGAL NEWS*. The recently published *Proceedings of the Conference on Stress, Strain, Heart Disease and the Law* have also been enthusiastically received. A comprehensive text on hospital labor law is being planned. Similarly, the conference series has also increased our recognition and acceptance among health care providers and attorneys engaged in the ever-growing field of health law. As a result, our membership roster has grown past the 2100 point. Additionally, over 400 and 1200 persons and libraries subscribe to *MEDICOLEGAL NEWS* and the *AMERICAN JOURNAL OF LAW & MEDICINE* respectively.

In order to continue this success, it is essential that all Society members participate in our activities — whether by writing articles, being a faculty member at conferences, assisting in plans to bring Society meetings to new areas, or by advising persons potentially interested in the Society of our existence and activities. It is also important that members renew their membership for 1980 as quickly as possible. The growth of the Society has been impressive and through the increased involvement of its many prestigious members even greater achievements are attainable. I look forward to an opportunity to work with all members.

A. Edward Doudera, Esq.