

Younger Surgeons Blamed for Abuses

Lexington's Dr. Rankin, New Head Of Surgical Group, Makes Charge

Chicago, Oct. 9 (UP)—The new president of the American College of Surgeons tonight blamed the younger, postwar generation of surgeons for fee-splitting, unnecessary operations, and other surgical abuses in the profession's ranks.

But Dr. Fred W. Rankin, Lexington, Ky., said older surgeons also were to blame for tolerating the growth of this "avarice."

Rankin spoke at his inauguration as the A.C.S. concluded its annual clinical congress here.

Cites Twin Pitfalls

"There are some in our midst who do not recognize their obligations, or who, recognizing them, lack the courage to live by them," he said.

"They fall into the twin pitfalls of avarice and ill-gotten gains. They persuade themselves that they are justified in what they are doing.

"It is regrettable that for the most part the men who are so

The great progress of medicine in the field of radioactive isotopes is discussed in an Associated Press article in tomorrow's Passing Show. Another story says that Kentucky now has four hospitals authorized by the Atomic Energy Commission to receive and work with isotopes.

conducting themselves are the younger, postwar generation.

"Let us admit that there are men in our profession—fortunately their number is small—who practice division of fees, who do ghost surgery, who perform unnecessary operations and

who charge exorbitant fees for their services.

Brought Abuses In Open

"Their number, as I say, is small, but even one malefactor reflects directly and unfavorably upon us all."

The A.C.S. brought surgical abuses out in the open at last year's meeting despite disapproval of the move by some other branches of medicine. Yesterday the A.C.S. board of regents reported that such practices as fee-splitting appeared to be diminishing.

Rankin, a past president of the American Medical Association, wondered out loud whether condemnations by the A.M.A. and other groups of surgical abuses were made in sincerity or expediency.

Rankin said he preferred to believe they were made in sincerity, but reported that attempts had been made to discipline A.C.S. regents who spoke out about abuses.

16 Kentuckians Inducted

"These attempts did not succeed," he said. "But that the issue should have been raised at all leaves one wondering—is the explanation that the wicked flee when no man pursueth?"

Sixteen Kentucky surgeons were inducted as fellows in the College of Surgeons tonight.

Fellowship is based upon acceptable medical education, advanced training in surgery, moral character, and ethical practice.

Seven Are From Louisville

Kentucky surgeons inducted:

J. Marvin Keeton, Ashland; John J. Sonne, Bardstown; Hubert C. Jones, Berea; Richard Finley Grise, Bowling Green; W. Vernon Lee, Covington; Robert H. English, Henderson; John G. Coleman, Lexington.

Harold F. Berg, Laman A. Gray, Blaine Lewis, Jr., Thomas M. Marshall, Herbert Ransdell, Jr., James M. Riley, Jr., and William J. Schutz, all of Louisville; Donald C. Haugh, Mayfield, and William H. Cartmell, Maysville.

Founded in 1913 to establish standards of competency and character for specialists in surgery, the organization has grown from 450 members to 19,000. More than 1,000 surgeons were inducted tonight.



Associated Press Wirephoto
DR. FRED W. RANKIN