

# Morning Star

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## Surgeons Advised To Clean House

The new president, Dr. Fred W. Rankin, of the American College of Surgeons begun his administration by discussing a subject of unusual interest not only to the profession but the laity.

"Let us admit," Dr. Rankin said, "that there are still 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."

The responsibility of the College of Surgeons, he added, is "to make every effort to end these practices," condemned by the American Medical association and many state medical groups.

Dr. Rankin pointed to an evil whose victims are the public. We agree that the number of men engaging in these unethical practices is small. But the fact they exist is an indictment which cannot be ignored.

If reaction by the college to its president's assertions is passive, the organization automatically becomes liable to further criticism from within and without its ranks.

Dr. Rankin reported on the college's self-examination. Self-correction is the next logical step.

The surgeons have before them examples wherein other professional and trade groups, admitting misconduct in their memberships, have declined or delayed remedy with the result that the government — acting upon the public's request — stepped in. That intrusion seldom has been pleasing to the organizations concerned.

It is better to clean up one's own house than have the people force someone else to do it.

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.

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

The ACS, against disapproval from some other branches of medicine, brought surgical abuses out in the open at last year's meeting. Thursday the ACS board of regents reported that such practices as fee-splitting appeared to be diminishing.

MARKETS

## Raps Young Doctors As Practicing Greed

CHICAGO, Oct. 10 (AP)—The new president of the American College of Surgeons blamed the "younger post-war 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, speaking at his inauguration as the ACS concluded its annual clinical congress here, said

"Let us admit that there are a few men in our profession—fortunately