

ABSTRACTS IN ENGLISH

A U T H E N T I C I T Y

O. ROSOWSKY

The proliferation of modern technologies increases the number of possible alternatives to a given medical problem. The costs are also very different depending on the medical branch involved. The extension of social medical care makes such choices and costs a national and international concern. Hence an increasing interest for the assessment of results and costs of each medical problem according to the branch concerned. The data processing tool enables a statistical approach through the law of numbers and thence an analysis and assessment of the practices inherent to each medical branch. This offers new opportunities to the general medical practice.

It is reminded on this occasion, that all medical branches (hospital medicine, specialized medicine or general practice) are made of sequences based on a pragmatic process, of which only some have a scientific background. All these practices require a genuine analysis of facts in order to determine the fields of application that are most appropriate.

It is proposed that the still widely accepted dogma according to which hospital and specialized medicine are scientific per se. be abandoned and replaced by a genuine assessment of observed facts.

A PROFESSIONAL TRIP IN MASSACHUSETTS (U.S.A)

O. ROSOWSKY

Both American University systems of training and performing of primary care are described, analysed and compared. The rivalry between these systems is outlined. The first one is situated at Harvard Medical School (Boston) and run by hospital trained internists and specialists on a liberal system basis. The working of a centre of care entirely run by such a team of specialists (Harvard Committee Health Plan) is described. The second system is situated at Worcester State University and run by the Board of Family Physicians on a public health system basis. The working of a Family Health Centre at Worcester is described, entirely run by a team of family physicians and by their students.

A visit at the Framingham Heart Institute allows to review the organization of this epidemiologic long-lasting survey about chronic cardiovascular diseases in the general population, which is the first of this type in the world and remains exemplary.

POLYCHEMOTHERAPY OF ARTERIAL HYPERTENSIA
IN FRANCE

J.B FORNARI

On the occasion of a national survey about the clinical results achieved in general practice in the treatment of arterial hypertension, a GP decides to participate, on his own initiative, to the national program, further to a preliminary study performed in his own practice. Several points are reviewed : modalities of dual therapy used in France, information problems for the patient and the physician in relation with drug combination, demonstration of a statistically significant correlation between physician's own choice of drug combination and patients age and sex.

THE "MINOR DRUG" , A SERIOUS PROBLEM

J. de couliboef

About a clinical case in a dangerous situation, the author definitely shows that a "minor" drug remains a genuine drug and that this is a very serious point.

ABOUT THE THERAPEUTIC ASSESSMENT IN MEDICINE

B. Vincent

The assessment of a drug may easily be done but the assessment of a therapeutic management supposes that the statut has been initially considered as abnormal and has subsequently improved, and that a causal relation between treatment and normalization has been established.

The author analyses the various obstacles that must be cleared to achieve unquestionable results in this field.

FOR HISTORY

About scientific controversy as a tool of progress in knowledge through the suppression of misunderstanding and through the extensive study of questions asked by bona fide research workers.

From a rather sharp but friendly exchange of letters between R.N!BRAUN (Austria), O. ROSOWSKY and B. VINCENT (France) in 1985, about scientific research in medicine and about necessary methods skills and tools. Application to the current epidemiologic and epistemologic research in Nantes by The Société Française de Médecine Générale.