

III. REPORT ON THE OBJECTIVES OF DENTAL EDUCATION

1. PURPOSE OF THE STUDY OF OBJECTIVES

Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen:

One of the important steps in scientifically devising a curriculum is to formulate clearly the purposes, or objectives, to be accomplished by the type of education for which the curriculum is to be prepared. In part these objectives depend on (1) the service to be rendered by the student after he has completed his course, (2) his welfare and happiness during his years of service and later years, (3) the position he will later occupy as a member of society, and (4) his intellectual capacity. After the objectives of a type of education have been agreed upon they become the goals to be achieved through the educational program, represented largely by the curriculum.

2. PRELIMINARY INVESTIGATION

Before attempting to formulate the objectives of dental education as they should be, the Curriculum Survey Committee decided to make a study of objectives as they are conceived by the schools at present. To secure preliminary statements of objectives a letter, which carried no leads or suggestions, was sent to the deans of all the dental schools in the United States and Canada, requesting them to state the objectives which they attempt to reach in the training of undergraduate students in dentistry. Twenty-three replies were received.

The twenty-three replies showed considerable variation. It proved possible to summarize them as follows:

- (a) The ultimate development of dentistry as a specialty of medicine. (1)
- (b) To train the student so that he may give safe and satisfactory service to his first patients. (5)
- (c) To teach dentistry from a background of broad medical training. (1)