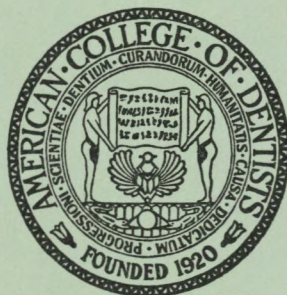


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Editorials

COMPULSORY POSTGRADUATE STUDY?

On August 8, 1961, Governor David L. Lawrence of Pennsylvania signed his name to the following amendment to the Chiropractic Act, thereby making it law:

Section 9.1. No applicant for a renewal registration shall be granted a registration for the ensuing biennial licensing period unless the applicant shall furnish to the board satisfactory evidence that he has attended not less than one two-day educational conference held by the Chiropractic Society of Pennsylvania, Inc., in each of the two intervening license years or that he has attended an equivalent educational conference during each such year. An "equivalent educational conference" shall be one approved or ratified by the board as meeting the educational and professional requirements of the profession. Any individual applying for an initial registration under this act shall be exempted from the requirement of attending an educational conference during the calendar year in which he makes application for his license, provided he has graduated from a school of chiropractic approved by the board during that calendar year.

The American College of Dentists throughout its history has considered continuing education an essential element in the professional life of a dentist. Dentistry advances too rapidly to permit any dentist to fulfill his obligation to his patients without maintaining constant contact with those advances. The problem has been how to motivate *every* dentist to undertake and maintain a program of continuing education.

The amendment to the Pennsylvania Chiropractic Act has inspired some dentists to think in terms of compelling, by law, every dental practitioner to participate in postgraduate study. One of the members of the Pennsylvania Assembly, a dentist, had an amendment prepared for introduction in the Senate should the dentists of Pennsylvania desire it.

The Pittsburgh Section met on January 18, 1962, for the purpose of discussing the desirability of such an amendment and of examining other possible ways of inducing dentists to continue study throughout their careers.

The consensus was that the amendment was not in the best interests of the public nor of the profession for the following reasons:

1. It would be extremely difficult to administer. What standards