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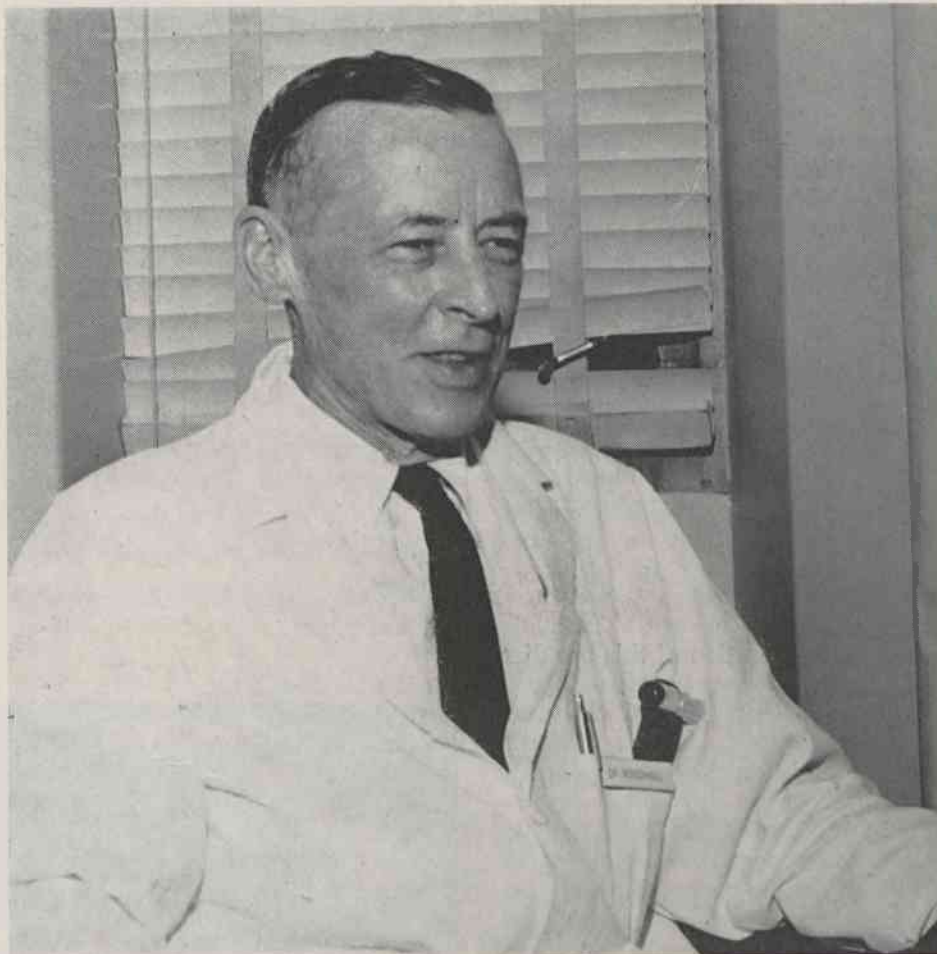
The Next Thirty Years

By Barnes Woodhall, M.D.

Some thirty years ago Dr. Davison started the Duke University Medical School. The School flourished and gained prestige and stature under the impelling force of the "credo of excellence" so firmly stated so many times by the Dean. The Medical School now faces a period of transition. Such transitional periods are an historical fact in the existence of all immortal institutions, including universities and their several components. The changing months or years ahead for this Medical School imply a regrouping of human resources and the recruitment of fresh minds, a rather extensive structure development, and—of primary importance—a meticulous examination of its responsibilities in the world in which it now finds itself, and in which it will pursue its tasks in the next thirty years.

The basic, ethical responsibility of medicine is the care of patients. In a University setting, this responsibility may become obscured by a host of variants that do not appear in the simple, classical relationship of physician and patient at the bedside. This tradition remains, however, a valid take-off point for all University medical activities, from the truth of a basic laboratory to the menial administrative formality of signing letters.

As a school for doctors, we seek qualified and motivated students from all economic and social backgrounds. To gain this end, adequate loan and scholarship funds must be secured. This School has no interest in imprinting an external pattern of growth upon such students. It does



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(Duke Photo by Sparks)

have a strongly vested interest in expanding the potential of such students into all possible avenues of growth. In addition to the goal of an inquiring, disciplined mind, we must instill in these students the blunt fact that medicine is now very much a part of the social and community structure; the physician can no longer hold fast to the doctrine of the ethical neutrality of science.

To teach students, to study new

phenomena and to take care of patients, a medical school needs a faculty—the best possible faculty that can be obtained by fair or foul means! The principles of medicine and surgery find their origin in the truly tumultuous world of the basic sciences. The adjective "tumultuous" is used because it describes well the geometric progression of added fact that is steadily accruing in these areas, fact

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