AMA Benefits

The Consumer

By Dr. Edward G. Bond. President of Chowan-Perquimans

County Medical Society Every time you bite into piece of bread, sip a glass of

clean water, sprinkle salt on a hamburger, or see doctor, you are benefiting from things that were done, or are being done, for your better health by the Chowan-Perquimans Coun-

ty Medical Society and

its parent organization, the

American Medical

For all of its 129 years, the

AMA has been a consumer

advocate for Americans'

Association.

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upon.

health. The AMA was probably the first organization to fight for clear stream laws and improved public sanitation. It recommended the creation of the federal food and drug administration. It encouraged the development of enriched flour and iodized salt, played an important role in

The basic work of the AMA is consumerist in nature: making sure that when you see a doctor you are consulting a man or woman who is not just a good physician but an excellent physician.

fortifying milk with vitamin

For your protection the AMA wages a continuing battle against quackery, quack products, pseudomedicine and medical fraud. Organized medicine helps monitor the quality of care in hospitals and exerts strong pressure -- in some cases requirements -- on its members to keep abreast of new medical knowledge.

The AMA has encouraged the expansion of what is widely acknowledged to be the best medical education in the world. There has been a growth of 30 per cent in the number of American medical schools and 30 per cent growth in the number of physicians in the U.S. in the last ten years. The total number of students entering medical schools last fall was 69 per cent higher than it

was ten years ago. Infant mortality has dropped about 25 per cent in the last decade; longevity has increased. Public opinion polls consistently show that 80 to 90 per cent of the people are either "satisfied" or "well satisfied" with the medical care they receive. Eighty six per cent of the people tell pollsters, "Yes, we have a family doctor we can call

Recently the AMA has lobbied for increased federal funding for such programs as : assistance to medical students unable to finance their own tuition; support for a program to get physicians into underserved rural areas; Indian health; immunization; alcohol abuse; lead-based paint poisoning prevention; maternal and child health. The AMA is working with the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration to upgrade medical care in correctional institutions.

On the big issue of national helath insurance, the AMA has lobbied in favor of a program of health insurance for everyone supported by U. S. general tax revenues but privately administered. While the AMA endorses national health insurance, it opposes a national health service along the lines of the British

Girl Scouts Open Camps

The Girl Scout Council of Greater Tidewater announces openings in the resident camps, Matoaka and Darden.

Programs offered include general camping, horseback riding, backpacking for beginners, arts, swimming and bike units. Any girl entering the fourth grade and older is invited to apply. A special session for handicapped girls will be

offered in August. Contact the Girl Scout Office, 314 West Bute Street, Norfolk, Va., 23510, or call 804-622-1871 for registration information.

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