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THE MEDIC

His School Years Are Almost Over, But Medical Education Is Just Beginning

A MEDICAL STUDENT is subjected to pressures that would make an average student break. He must spend great stretches of time in classroom and laboratory. He must assimilate and store vast sums of knowledge to be held against the day when there is no substitute. And he is not just a scholar, working with his head. His hands are his tools and must be trained accordingly. With medical knowledge and trained hands he still must learn how to meet the public and to understand human foibles.

Why he doesn't break is a tribute to his selection and his dedication. He is not an average student. He is allowed to enter Medical School because he is above average in character and mentality.

When he finishes his four years in Medical School, what then? Is he a finished product ready for practice? He has spent an incredible amount of time on his education—usually 20 years. Isn't it time for him to build a practice?

The answer is: he's just begun. After he receives his M.D. degree, he will continue studying for the remainder of his medical career. First he must intern. Then he must establish a residency, if he wishes to specialize. And that doesn't end the process of learning. If he is to go forward with medical science, he must continue for the rest of his life.

After receiving the M.D. degree, the young graduate must still intern and, if he wishes to specialize, must spend more years in residence. Surgery, for example, is performed by highly-trained specialists.