

## **Crawford Bost, MD**

General Pediatrician, SF  
Northern California Chair, 1941-47  
District 8 Chair, 1948-15  
AAP President, 1954-55

**His Presidential address** can be found in *Pediatrics* 1956; 17:141-145

### ***Excerpts from the address:***

“It is twenty five years since the founding of the American Academy of Pediatrics. I doubt that any medical specialty society has had so great an influence in its field...Such phenomenal growth has occurred that the president’s message has come to be a way of bringing into focus for the members the broad field of activities that constitutes the Academy program. In each of the recent years we have learned of the transactions of the Evanston office, the Executive Board and the National Committees...(T)he many efforts and vast influence of the State and local committees are being reported...

My own knowledge of the Academy began in the founding year...(w)orking in the office of Dr. William Palmer Lucas, one of the farseeing founding members...(He envisioned as association ‘which would really discuss and study pediatric problems, trends, developments, matters relating to preventive pediatrics, to the practice of pediatrics, to the future of clinical pediatrics, and also of research that had a pragmatic pediatric flavor.’

First let us list some easily recognized assets.

**Four thousand six hundred members.** This number represents more than three-quarters of the eligible pediatricians in the United States, plus Canadian and Latin American members...High qualifications...Research worker, practitioner or teacher...(o)ur greatest asset.

**The new headquarters building.** Situated in Evanston...dedicated during this twenty-fifth anniversary year...

**The central office.** Well organized...run with economy...

**Pediatrics.** A leading journal...(since) 1948...

**Other publications...** (T)welve Academy publications...

**Scientific meetings...** spreading pediatric knowledge...

**National committees...**No single activity of the Academy contributes so much as do these groups.

Liaison Representatives. Growing evidence of the ...increasing authority of pediatricians in all child health and welfare programs is seen in the list of liaison with other national societies...

**State chapters.** In the first years of organizational activation of state programs was the entire responsibility of the State Chairmen...The formation of state chapters has been the greatest boon to implementation of programs, increased member participation, and interest in Academy affairs...

What of the next years?...(S)ome current questions of concern to us...

**Education of Pediatricians.** Vast changes have occurred in pediatric practice...Should not intern and resident teaching also change?

**The Academy in total child care:**...The sphere of influence occupied by the Academy has considerably enlarged...Shall we simply improve what we now have...(or) encourage ...creating (more) active state chapters...increased concern with government and public health programs and parent education?...Executive Board ...(has) an eagerness to keep faith with ...our founding fathers ...and correlate all aspects of the work for the welfare of children...”