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Editors' Preamble

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Hospital Law Problems (A Symposium)

Editors' Preamble

Current problems in the law applicable to hospitals, and closely collateral matters, are treated in this Symposium—chiefly in the light of recent trends towards abolition of the legal immunity of voluntary hospitals from liability for the torts of their agents. Emphasis has been placed on some problems not often discussed in legal literature.

In substance, the chief aspects discussed, and the authors of the articles on each aspect, are as follows:

- Hospital Tort Liability (*Holdridge*)
- Doctor vs. Hospital Administrator (*Oleck*)
- Hospital Administrative Personnel (*McCollum*)
- Physician's Right to Use Hospital (*Mack*)
- Physician-Patient Privilege (*Stewart*)
- Hospital Records (*Dunsmore*)
- Medical Evidence (*Lamppert*)
- Hospital vs. Labor Union (*Weissman*)
- Hospital Service Plans (*Simpson*)
- Typical Surgery Problem (*deWolfe*)
- Typical Medical Problem (*Oppenheim*)

Absence of an article by a hospital administrator or attorney is acknowledged with regret. That lack results in a distinct imbalance in the Symposium. This, however, is due to no oversight nor lack of effort. Requests for contributions of such articles were made, in vain. The paucity of administration-view articles is reminiscent of the paucity of tort defense articles in law reviews as compared with the number of articles written by plaintiffs' counsel.

The Editors emphasize their respect for American hospitals and hospital administrators, both undoubtedly the best in the world today. Analysis and criticism of specific problems in hospital law naturally concentrate on the defects in that law; most people already know the far more numerous *qualities* of American hospital law and administrative practices. This Symposium examines the problem-issues in the hope that it will be constructively helpful to hospital administrators and personnel as well as to the bench and bar.