

OBSERVATIONS OF THE HISTORIAN

SOUTHEASTERN SOCIETY OF PLASTIC AND RECONSTRUCTIVE SURGEONS

Williamsburg, Virginia
June, 1961

Though the fourth annual meeting is now being recorded in the past tense it certainly will go down as a most historical event. The modernity of vast destructive powers of nuclear weapons were shadowed momentarily by the atmosphere of Colonial Williamsburg. In this most historic setting of old Virginia with the voices of George Washington, Thomas Jefferson and Patrick Henry still ringing as echoes of warning to our national security, did Present Robert Hagerty bring to order and welcome the membership. It was amidst the odor of honeysuckle and in the shade of magnolia trees that the course of business and science was conducted. Like our forefathers we were indulged in a new endeavor and realized the unity alone would achieve desired goals in our ventures. There was a conformity of opinion that our initial embarkment had been successful and the horizon appeared clear and balmy.

Interdigitated with the excellent scientific forum were social events unequaled in the past. The host Virginian contingent excelled with their usual (and yet unusual) southern hospitality. There could be no greater thrill to visit, see and even dine in the same haunts that our colonial statesmen inhabited daily. We all relived the hardships and trying times of our American pioneers and for once realized our indebtedness to such a heritage.

Favorable comments were heard on every corner, from the blacksmith's shop to the powder magazine, from the colonial courthouse steps to the apothecary shop, and even from Jamestown to Yorktown. Memories will linger of the scenic river trip that changed topography with every mile. The port of embarkation was a historic stage in itself with replicas of colonial ships in the harbor. Modernity was eventual though and this was viewed in the moth fleet of ships, the aircraft carriers and the atomic submarines. No one will ever forget the port of destination which was the Norfolk Country Club and the gracious lawn party while the sun was setting in the west.

It was amongst this beautiful portrayal of the life and customs of the 1700's that our meeting was opened. And like the motto that colonial Williamsburg cherishes, "That the future may learn from the past", the membership of the Southeastern Society of Plastic & Reconstructive Surgeons adjourned to return to their homes with the idea that we will not barter away our birthrights of a noble heritage but instead fearlessly protect the exalted aims and honor that has enabled us with such as our profession.

Clifford C. Snyder, M. D.