

News Release - The Journal of Medical Education

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MEDICAL SCHOOL FINDS ORIENTATION PROGRAM VALUABLE.

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An orientation program for entering medical students, seldom used by medical colleges despite the success of such programs at the undergraduate level, was found to be "of great value" when tried at the State University of New York at Syracuse. Dr. Davis G. Johnson, assistant dean for student personnel, describes the program and the student response in the May issue of the "Journal of Medical Education".

The Syracuse program featured a "senior guide", who was assigned to write letters of welcome to three freshmen during the summer preceding their entrance to the school. Later this senior "big brother" was on hand to accompany his guidees through registration, receptions and a tour of the school.

In addition, lectures were given on the history of the school and an introductory clinic was held which em-

phasized the need for basic sciences as background for clinical training. A luncheon for the freshmen and senior guides closed the program.

When the students, both freshmen and senior, who participated were asked their opinion, the answers 95 percent favourable. According to Dr. Johnson, this should encourage other medical schools to initiate such an orientation program.

A typical response was, "The program was of great value in helping us overcome our feeling of strangeness. It also made us aware of our goals for the next four years. Moreover, it gave us the feeling that the faculty is really concerned with our welfare."

Dr. Johnson suggests that the medical schools as a group might take a systematic survey of their orientation practices, and summarize the findings with a view toward helping their students get off to the best possible start in their medical training.