

The February issue of Archives of Dermatology, an American Medical Association publication, carries an FBI Wanted notice for a 30-year-old woman accused of conspiring to transport explosives across state lines. Her description states she has a severe and recurring form of acne which might require treatment by a dermatologist. Another Wanted notice is printed in the current issue of the Journal of the American Medical Association, the AMA's major publication. It concerns a woman with alleged suicidal tendencies.

The appearance of the Wanted notices was noted in an article written by Dr. William Gaylen [phonetic], the president of the Hastings Center in New York, an organization devoted to studying ethical issues in science and medicine. Dr. Gaylen writes, "It seems ironic that the AMA, which has consistently opposed government intrusion into medical matters, even where a legitimate public interest has been proved, should now have volunteered the services of organized medicine into a government function and in an area so alien from the traditional medical mission as tracking down criminals."

The AMA's director of scientific publication, Dr. Hugh Hussey, said publication of the Wanted notices "does not involve a question of ethics." He said it is a public service performed at the request of the FBI, and publication of such notices will continue.

[End of item.]