

of Health. These programs were not designed to produce academic specialists on aging, but were quite effective in assisting college teachers concerned with biological, social or economic aspects of the aging process.

Certainly there are biology teachers who would like to offer more information on nutrition. Nutrition fits well with both general and specialized courses in organic chemistry and biochemistry. In psychology, there has been a great interest in the whole subject of taste, food preferences and food aversions. And anthropologists' interests in cultural practices and problems of nutrition, particularly with respect to culture change, are well known.

I would suggest, therefore, a summer training program in nutrition, with equal concentration on the cultural and physiological aspects of the problem, with attention to nutrition-deficiency diseases in various parts of the world, and with considerable emphasis on nutrition frauds and fakes. Certainly the problem is too great to leave to graduate education alone, and such a training program would help to generate interest.

There are summer programs for mathematics and physics, anthropology and sociology, gerontology and so forth. Why not a summer program in nutrition, aimed at a variety of college people and with today's students and tomorrow's adults in mind?

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Dear Dr. György:

The editorial which you prepared and which appeared in *The American Journal of Clinical Nutrition* for January has come to my attention. I should like to endorse heartily the thesis which you developed, favoring increased nutrition education for students in the medical sciences. A knowledge of nutrition would appear to be such an innate part of the discipline which is focused upon the well-being of

the individual, that it is difficult to understand why this science is so inadequately treated in many medical schools even now. Certainly it cannot be because of paucity of material of appropriate academic caliber. Many carefully designed research programs developed by able scientists have produced an ever increasing body of well documented facts.

The editorial further raised the question of the most efficient means for making available additional nutrition teaching for medical students. It was indicated that in the past nutritional knowledge has been disseminated through Departments of Home Economics and Animal Husbandry. It is true that the science of nutrition has been of prime concern to Home Economics from the time of the earliest development of the field.

I would, therefore, suggest that for medical schools which are located on the same campus, or closely adjacent, to Schools of Home Economics, they may find a solution to the problem of the teaching of normal nutrition to medical students by seeking the cooperation of Faculties of Home Economics. Inspection will frequently show that within Departments of Foods and Nutrition experienced teachers are already offering substantial basic courses in nutrition. These teachers are well qualified having obtained the Doctor of Philosophy degree in nutrition and/or biochemistry. Their teaching is usually enriched by the research programs which they have designed and are currently directing.

Since the first need of the medical student (or any other) is to master the fundamentals of the science—in this case, nutrition—before progressing on to conditions presented by abnormal situations; and since in some universities, the necessary subject matter is already being offered, it would seem a needless duplication to set up additional courses. I am sure that faculty members of any well established Department of Foods and Nutrition, within Schools or Colleges of Home Economics would welcome the opportunity to describe the available nutrition course offerings to members of the Medical School

faculty, and to discuss with them any special needs of the medical student.

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Dear Sirs:

The Editorial Board invitation to comment on Dr. György's paper "Teaching and Training in Nutrition" made me write down the enclosed considerations on this problem in my country. Since nutrition is an important international affair, I think it would be a quite useful contribution, if people from different countries could give their own thinking and suggestions on this subject.

VIEWS ON NUTRITION PROGRAMS IN BRAZIL

Although the importance and development of nutrition sciences is well known all over the world, its specific application is getting behind this over all knowledge.

Dr. György's editorial on teaching and training in nutrition calls attention to some of the causes that are responsible for this situation in the United States and suggests as a possible remedy the appointment of a coordinator for nutritional teaching in American medical schools.

As far as nutritional teaching, the situation in Brazilian universities is quite similar to the one found in the United States. At medical schools some nutrition is taught in the physiology, biochemistry and pathology departments and specifically, little in the clinical departments. No one is aware of the importance of nutrition as an unity, and in our special structure of universities, I do not believe it would be possible to have a person with sufficient power to coordinate an interdepartmental program on nutrition.

The importance of an integrated scientific nutrition program is still too far away from the thoughts of our university officials, nothing being necessary to say in relation to the government and to the people in general.

It has been my position in a project of an

Institute of Nutrition for Children sent to International Agencies interested in food problems, that a faster way to achieve nutrition training and education in Brazil would be to put the trained personnel, which we already have, working *full time* and *together* in the *same place*, preferably in an isolated institute. This institute should be connected with a medical or public health school but should be under an independent chairmanship.

The policy of some international agencies has been to try to develop nutritional programs, helping departments of medical schools which are overburdened with teaching and their own research programs. What happens in general is that it is only possible for these people, if it is a department of biochemistry for example, to study some aspects of food chemistry. There is little opportunity for the same group to perform biological assays in animals or in man, not to say field experiments.

To be really effective, this help should come to those groups of people, working in the same place, that will be able to deal with the different aspects not only of nutrition research, but also of teaching for doctors, nurses, social workers and especially for elementary and high school teachers.

It would be useful also if these institutes of nutrition could be located outside the big cities, so that they could do research and graduate work and teach people who would work in the countryside.

As for the presence of a foreign nutritional advisor in these nutrition study centers, not only would they be useful but also necessary. It is my thinking that they would be most welcome, especially if these centers were connected with the universities and if these advisors stayed for a longer time than a two or four day visit. A foreign advisor in an organized nutrition center can help train and teach several persons. It is a much better program than to send promising young men to stay in the United States for two or three years who will have to return to their country and work in a secondary position at a medical school or a government place, or will have to spend part of their time in private practice

A further suggestion that could be made to