

intake and output. Tendencies to neglect one or more of these foundations of fluid therapy in favor of a kind of roulette-wheel guidance are shockingly prevalent.

This letter is not intended to provide the detailed background necessary for prescription of parenteral fluids. Valuable guidance is available among the following: Welt's "Clinical Disorders of Hydration and Acid-Base Equilibrium" (Little, Brown & Co., 1959);

certain practical points are concisely covered in Conn's "Current Therapy" (Saunders), 1960 (pp. 257-268) and 1961 (pp. 258-270); and theoretic foundations are promulgated in Wolf's "The Urinary Function of the Kidney" (Grune & Stratton, 1950).

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Teaching and Training in Nutrition

Dear Sirs:

In commenting on the excellent editorial written by Dr. Paul György* concerning medical education in the field of nutrition, I would like to make the following suggestions:

I agree with the principle that one member of the medical faculty with special interest and proved accomplishments in the nutrition field, should be named as coordinator of nutritional teaching. However, I believe that a further step is desirable in most of the larger institutions, particularly in those in which there is an opportunity for postdoctorate and graduate research and training. I believe there is a distinct advantage in having a formally designated department or special chair of nutrition, so that within the institution and among those who are outside the immediate organization, the person in the leadership position will be continually identified. For example, I believe that Harvard University and M.I.T. programs demonstrate the value of this type of organization.

At the University of California a similar development is now established, and at Vanderbilt University Dr. Derby's program has been highly successful. The School of Nutrition at Cornell University has made a notable contribution, but they have been handicapped to some degree by the great distance between the main campus for graduate work and the Medical College. At Columbia University, the Institute of Nutrition Sciences has

also established an excellent program of coordinated teaching and research.

When there is not a distinct department or school of nutrition, I believe there should be at least a joint designation, such as biochemistry and nutrition. Strong and well identified leadership, when properly staffed, serves as a stimulus and reliable guide among fellow staff members on a voluntary basis, instead of acting as a break on nutritional research and teaching.

In the so-called developing countries, there is usually a need to develop the whole scope of coverage, including agricultural extension, community development and related facilities, as indicated by Dr. György. These are services that we tend to take for granted in the United States and other technologically advanced countries, but even here they do not have the coordination that we need with the medical and health provisions. Fortunately, the United Nations agencies are also recognizing the urgent need for such broad coordination to make the best use of their total resources on behalf of the developing countries.

Dr. György's emphasis on the need for extensive professional training for leadership within the developing countries is well stated and extremely important. Likewise, the emphasis given to the spirit of service and humility in working among professional and lay groups resident in the developing countries is thoroughly commendable.

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