

Editorial



One Year Old

With this issue, the JOURNAL OF CLINICAL NUTRITION begins its second year of publication. We who have been connected with the JOURNAL are more than gratified by the reception it has received in the hands of our public. This has been reflected in the ever-increasing subscription lists, the growing group of organizations which advertise in its pages and, particularly, in the high quality of manuscripts submitted for publication. These all indicate, we believe, that the JOURNAL is furnishing an

important service to the medical profession both here and abroad.

To our many friends and well-wishers who have offered kind criticisms, to our loyal readers and to our past, present, and future contributors go our heartfelt thanks and a pledge to continue our best efforts to make this JOURNAL—the only one of its kind—fulfill its objective: “the reporting of the practical application of our newer knowledge of nutrition.”

—THE EDITORS

Nobel Prize 1953

To those interested in metabolism and nutrition, it will not come as a surprise that the 1953 Nobel Prize in Physiology and Medicine has been awarded to two outstanding biochemists, Professor H. A. Krebs, now at the University of Sheffield, and Professor F. Lipmann, now at the Massachusetts General Hospital, who richly deserve this honor. The work of both these investigators in explaining, in part at least, the hidden mysteries of the biochemical processes we know as *life* is widespread in its application.

Lipmann and his group showed the cardinal position of “active acetate”—acetyl co-enzyme A—in intermediary metabolism of fat, carbohydrate, and protein. It is significant that pantothenic acid is part of the co-enzyme A structure.

Krebs, over the years, has clarified one of the most complex and obscure of all physiologic activities—the enzymatic transfer of energy at the cellular level. The “Krebs Cycle” was a major step forward in our understanding of the ultimate breakdown of carbohydrate (and other substances) to carbon dioxide.

These awards again emphasize how great has been the recent accumulation of knowledge in the fields of nutrition, metabolism, and biochemistry. Since the Nobel Prizes were first awarded, in 1901, a large number of laureates have worked in these related fields. Earlier recipients include: Kossel, 1910, for studies on the chemical composition of cells; Hill and Meyerhof, in 1922, on muscle metabolism; Banting and MacLeod, 1923, on insulin; Eijkmann and Hopkins, 1929, on vitamins A and B; Minot, Murphy, and Whipple, 1934, on liver extract; Szent-Gyorgyi, 1937, on vitamins A and C; Dam and Doisy, 1943, on vitamin K; the Coris and Houssay, 1947, on carbohydrate metabolism. Proof indeed of the tremendous development in this phase of the biological sciences.

It is also to be noted that the two outstanding scientists just honored had found refuge and the freedom and opportunity to work in democratic countries; the intolerant persecution of these scientists left their fatherland the poorer, but the world the richer.

—S. O. WAIFE, M.D.

