

took to see not only that the royalties went to support more research in nutrition, but also by his personal efforts to see that neither time nor opportunity was lost in making the benefits of a plentiful supply of this essential nutrient widely available. He became a member of the Food and Nutrition Board of the National Research Council and chairman of its Committee on Cereals, a post he has held since 1940. He played a leading role in furthering the enrichment of bread in the United States. Finally, in 1946, he retired from the Bell Telephone Laboratories in order to give his full time to his nutrition work. Having assisted in and seen the health benefits of the enrichment of bread, flour, and corn meal in the United States, he carried his initiative and support back to the Philippines where he had first tackled the problem so many years before, and we find him supporting the studies which demonstrated the value of adding thiamine to white rice by assisting Dr. Salcedo and his group in showing that beriberi can be eradicated by this procedure. As a result, we can see the Philippines taking the leadership in Asia by enacting a law requiring the enrichment of white rice—a measure which, if enforced and extended to the large rice-eating areas of the world, could become one of the greatest contributions to health that the world has ever seen.

I would like to read you a few sentences from a letter which Dr. Salcedo wrote last month:

“Please extend my very best wishes for continued good health and more success to Dr. R. R. Williams at the ceremonies on . . . April 23rd. I wish I could be present even only to shake his hand and express to him my personal and lasting gratitude for everything he has done to promote the health through good nutrition to our people. Undernourished millions the world over

have benefited by his efforts. Countless co-workers, scientists and friends will always have him nearest to their hearts and uppermost in their minds for generations to come. I shall think of him more fondly . . . during the ensuing years.”

Naturally, many honors have come to Dr. Williams. I will not try to enumerate them. Among numerous medals and citations are seven honorary degrees and they honor the donor in the giving. I am sure he will continue to receive others.

He has just passed his seventieth birthday and relinquished the chairmanship of his Williams-Waterman Fund, and, although he will not work regularly at the job, all of us who know him know that he will never cease to be concerned about the malnourished people of the world and that he will be contributing to their betterment as long as he lives.

It has been one of the great inspirations of my life to have had the opportunity to be associated with Dr. Williams in a small way for many years and to have been guided by his wisdom and experience on many occasions. I know that all of his associates will continue to look to him for advice and to call on him for help with the problems of human malnutrition which we know are so close to his heart.

In conclusion, to my mind Dr. Williams represents the best that religious freedom, intellectual freedom, and political freedom can produce. In the troubled times that we see ahead of us in the world, if this country can continue to produce men of Dr. Williams' caliber we have nothing to fear, and the world will be a better place for us all.

—WILLIAM H. SEBRELL, M.D.
Former Director,
National Institute of Health

Erratum

In the Letter to the Editor, “The Role of Amino Acids in Kwashiorkor,” *AMERICAN JOURNAL OF CLINICAL NUTRITION* 4: 286, 1956, the sentence on the fifteenth and sixteenth lines from the bottom, second column, should have read: “There was loss of edema, regeneration of serum protein, and healing of skin lesions. . .”