

effects and carries the implication of still further broadening.

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Nutrition and a State Medical Society

THE ultimate goal of all research and clinical investigation in nutrition is the improvement of the health of the people. To this end several progressive state medical societies have established programs which vary in scope and objectives but which have as their fundamental philosophy the "practical application" of our newer knowledge of nutrition.

One of the leading examples of such a progressive viewpoint may be found in the report of the Commission on Nutrition of the Medical

Society of Pennsylvania (*Pennsylvania M. J.* 60:1113,1957). The Commission's report may well be studied by appropriate commissions of other state medical societies for it represents an admirable example of what can and should be done.

In brief, the Commission has had two objectives: (1) The stimulation of interest in clinical nutrition at state and county levels; and (2) the dissemination of factual information on nutrition to both practicing physicians and the laity.

Among the numerous accomplishments of the Committee are the following:

A number of editorials on various aspects of applied nutrition appeared in the state medical journal.

Three exhibits were presented at the annual sessions of the state medical society. These dealt with obesity, electrolytes, and salt free diets.

A Coordinating Committee was established with representatives from city, state, and health medical societies, dental societies, state nurse organizations, etc. This Committee undertook a survey of the extensive nutritional training in hospitals. It was learned, not unexpectedly, that most hospitals offer little or no training in nutrition to interns and residents. The great majority of institutions, however, expressed a desire for a manual on standard therapeutic diets for both reference and teaching purposes. As a result, therefore, the Coordinating Committee prepared a manual of standard therapeutic diets which apparently has met with considerable enthusiasm state and nationwide. Copies of the manual have been distributed free of charge to senior medical students of the six medical schools in Pennsylvania.

As part of an education program, the State Nutrition Commission organized various symposia. These were held at State Medical Society meetings, and in cooperation with the National Vitamin Foundation, and with the Philadelphia County Medical Society.

The Commission has also urged the establishment of nutrition clinics throughout the state and supported a pioneering nutrition clinic now in operation at the Philadelphia General Hospital.

In cooperation with the Dietetic Association, a program will be prepared for the laity.

The Commission cooperated with the Pennsylvania Heart Association in the preparation of a manual on salt-free diets for free distribution.

The Commission also prepared a program of vitamin and other nutritional supplementation for patients under state public assistance. This doubtless will save the taxpayer a considerable amount of money.

The writer has had an opportunity to see a proposal for the establishment of a Division of Nutrition within the Department of Public Health of the City of Philadelphia. Because it is felt that this may be of interest to some of our readers, the following is a brief summary of this proposal.

The purposes of such a Division of Nutrition within a City Department of Public Health are (1) the promotion of better public health through research and special clinics; (2) the prevention of diseases arising from public ignorance of this field; and (3) direct participation in programs both in prenatal clinics, maternal nutrition studies, and school nutrition projects; and finally (4) rehabilitation of those who are in medical need from the public health standpoint, such as obesity, nutritional anemia, diabetes, etc.

The recommended organization would be located in a large city hospital. The staff would consist of a director, three physicians, two dietitians, a psychiatrist, a laboratory technician, two social workers, and a clerk. A number of laboratory studies would be performed including, in addition to routine determinations, analyses of vitamin C, urinary thiamine, urinary riboflavin, and electrolytes.

The Nutrition Division could plan courses for members of the Department of Public Health, such as public health nurses, dietitians employed by other state and city agencies, general physicians, and school physicians. Furthermore, this division could furnish consultants to other departments within and outside the Department of Health, would engage in the nutrition and education in medical schools and hospitals, help improve dietary practices in various state institutions, and advise various industrial hygiene divisions.

It is clear that a great deal may be offered by city- and state-organized medicine in improving the role of nutrition as a medical science and as an adjunct toward the health of the public.

A special commendation should be made to the Commission on Nutrition, State of Pennsylvania, under the chairmanship of Dr. Michael G. Wohl, whose members include Drs. T.



E. Machella, R. E. Olson, H. N. Seiple, J. N. Seitchik, P. L. Shallenberger, Paul C. Shoemaker, J. M. Strang, and C. W. Wirts, Jr.

It is hoped that through these means some

of the progress in clinical nutrition can be brought to a more practical application to the health of the people.

—S. O. WAIFE, M.D

ANNOUNCEMENT

The Editorial Board of this Journal has long felt that the field of interest of clinical nutrition overlaps with the disciplines known as "metabolism" and "endocrinology." This historic but artificial separation seems meaningless now as current research has led to the abolition of boundaries between these three facets of man's adjustment to internal and external changes.

The Editorial Board, therefore, is pleased to announce the appointment of three Departmental Editors who will help in broadening the coverage of this Journal.

Metabolism: Kenneth R. Crispell, M.D., Associate Professor of Medicine, University of Virginia, Charlottesville.

Nutrition: D. Mark Hegsted, PH.D., Associate Professor of Nutrition, Harvard School of Public Health, Boston.

Endocrinology: Laurance W. Kinsell, M.D., Director, Institute for Metabolic Research, Highland Alameda County Hospital, Oakland, Cal.

Condolences

As we go to press, we learn with sorrow of the passing of Dr. Edward J. Stieglitz, a member of our Advisory Board. To the family of Dr. Stieglitz the publishers and editorial staff of this Journal extend their deepest sympathy.

