

Symposium on Lipid Metabolism, Lipotropes and Atherosclerosis

Foreword

THIS, the first symposium of the Lipotropic Research Foundation, was held at the Sheraton Hotel, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, on April 13, 1958. The Foundation had long considered the advisability of holding this type of meeting, but not without some degree of hesitation. Organized less than four and a half years at the time of the symposium, it was debatable as to whether or not the scope of the Foundation's activities was sufficiently broad to warrant holding such a meeting.

While the attendance was limited to invited speakers and guests, nevertheless the number in attendance and the caliber of the presentations and discussions have more than justified our decision to hold the meeting. I believe the papers presented and the discussions during the course of the meeting served the purpose intended—namely, to add to our knowledge and remove some of the confusion prevailing on the role of the lipotropes in promoting phospholipid turnover from the liver as a physiologic precursor to normal lipid transport in the blood. We hope that the publication of the proceedings of the symposium will help to disseminate among medical men and research workers some of the interesting findings in the field of lipid metabolism, including the abnormalities leading to atherosclerosis and its dreaded sequelae.

On behalf of the Foundation, I take this opportunity to express my grateful appreciation to Dr. Hartoft who graciously undertook to prepare the agenda for the symposium and act as its chairman, as well as moderator of the morning session, and to Dr. Artom, who, although recuperating from a long illness, made the trip to Philadelphia to moderate the afternoon session and join in the discussions.

I also wish to express the thanks of the Foundation to Drs. Lucas and Wilgram of Canada, and to Drs. Chow, Rodbard and Olson, among the invited guests who took part in the discussions. I also take this occasion to thank the respective grantees of the Foundation.

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