

tion of the vitamin is in the prevention of particular deficiency diseases.

If the third system is to be continued as the simplest and most usable, how can it best meet the peculiar difficulty of recognizing a subdivision of a previously named vitamin into two entirely separate substances, one of which is likewise a vitamin of long standing, but which hitherto has had only a descriptive name—antineuritic vitamin. As was stated earlier, vitamin B has always stood for a water-soluble, appetite-stimulating, growth-promoting substance. To shift the letter B to either the antineuritic vitamin or the heat-stable vitamin would mean an entire change in significance which, on historic grounds alone, would be unfortunate. To retain it in its original sense involves no real change in conception, even although we know that for the properties denoted in the descriptive adjectives associated with it at least two separate vitamins are involved, each with certain individual properties. These vitamins, to take their place in the vitamin alphabet, should automatically receive the letters F and G, F being assigned to the earlier known, heat-labile antineuritic vitamin and G to the heat-stable vitamin which possibly has antipellagric properties. To those who find it difficult to distinguish vitamins by letters, it is a happy coincidence that the letters are the initials of the two investigators, Funk and Goldberger, most closely associated with these vitamins.

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THE FEDERATION OF AMERICAN SOCIETIES OF EXPERIMENTAL BIOLOGY

THE annual meeting of the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology was held at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Mich., April 12, 13 and 14, 1928.

The first meeting, a joint session of the societies of which the federation is comprised, was held Thursday morning. The program consisted in the presentation of nine papers which had been selected as being of general interest to the members of all four societies. It would be impossible to select one or more of the papers as being of outstanding value without doing injustice to the authors of the others whose names appeared on the program. Suffice it to say, they were all meritorious, but differed in interest, depending upon the particular field in which the listener might be actively engaged.

The afternoon was devoted to the reading of papers by the constituent societies of the federation, namely,

the Physiological Society, the Biochemical Society, the Pharmacological Society and the Pathological Society.

Owing to the large number of titles presented, the Physiological Society was obliged to hold a double session each day in order to allow for the presentation of all the papers.

The Biochemical Society likewise was obliged to hold a double session Friday morning.

Friday afternoon was devoted to joint demonstrations by all societies. Thirty-seven demonstrations were on the program, which was a marked increase above the number given at any previous meeting. They were in practically all instances most interesting and instructive.

The final meeting, a joint session, was held Saturday afternoon, when another group of papers of unusual interest was presented.

Regarding the meeting it may be stated that it was the largest in point of attendance of any held during the history of the federation. An unusually large number of titles was presented under the "introduced by" and "by invitation" list. The authors of these papers were, for the most part, of the younger generation, who in the majority of cases occupy minor teaching positions or are doing research work as undergraduates.

All the foregoing speaks favorably as regards the popularity of a spring meeting. This was the second meeting held at this time of the year, the first being one year ago when we met at Rochester, New York. The executive committee of the federation, recognizing the discomfort of traveling in the holiday season and the reluctance of some of the members in absenting themselves from their families during the Christmas holidays, recommended that the time of holding the annual meeting be changed. The proposition of making a change met with some opposition, but the experiment was made and has proved to be very successful.

It was voted that our next meeting be held at Boston, Mass., at the time of the meeting of the International Physiological Congress. The federation meeting will be merged with the meetings of the congress.

This report would be incomplete if the excellent services and the hospitality shown by the members of the University of Michigan were not mentioned. The local committee left nothing undone which could further add to our comfort and convenience.

The board of regents of the university kindly provided a complimentary dinner on Thursday evening, to which all in attendance were invited as their guests.

Everything considered, it was the most successful meeting ever held during the history of the federation.

E. D. BROWN, *Secretary*