IT HAPPENED THIS MONTH...

a glance at yesterday in relation to today

IN NOVEMBER — (1910) — there is reported\(^1\) a study of the influence of alcohol upon nitrogen metabolism in dogs and man. Moderate doses of alcohol are found to exert a protein-sparing action; with larger quantities there is some nitrogen loss. Perhaps the most significant impression is the absence of any profound disturbance in protein metabolism, even when comparatively large doses are continued for days and weeks.

Today, we know that alcohol reduces the entry of amino acids into the Krebs cycle. If you wish to study objectively the nutritional relationship between alcohol and amino acids, Schwarz BioResearch can supply you with the amino acids at low cost. (Since repeal of prohibition, there is no problem in obtaining alcohol for pleasurable and nutritional purposes.) We are also ready to fill your research, instructional, and analytical needs with these optically standardized, highly purified amino acids — plain or labeled with N\(^{15}\), S\(^{35}\), C\(^{14}\) and O\(^{18}\).

IN NOVEMBER — (1939) — a letter from the Coris\(^2\) discusses certain apparent differences between liver, brain, and muscle phosphorylase. The liver enzyme converts glucose-1-phosphate to glycogen more rapidly than do preparations from other tissues. This is attributable to contamination of liver phosphorylase by glycogen, rather than to an intrinsic difference in the enzyme itself. This established the role of glycogen as a primer in glycogenesis.

While the glycolytic enzymes are still difficult to obtain in a pure crystalline state, many of their substrates are readily available from Schwarz BioResearch. We supply a large number of sugars and sugar phosphates, plain or labeled with C\(^{14}\).

IN NOVEMBER — (1952) — a report from Scandinavia discusses the determination of the nucleic acid content of human placenta. There is good agreement between results obtained by Hammarsten's method and by application of cysteine reactions to the hot T.C.A. extract. Schmidt and Thannhauser values showed considerable divergencies. P.N.A. content decreases sharply with the aging of the placenta, while D.N.A. increases slightly. Thus, there is marked decrease in the P.N.A./D.N.A. ratio during pregnancy.\(^3\)

Placentation is only one type of tissue development where nucleic acids play a major role. Schwarz BioResearch is the leading supplier of all types of nucleic acid compounds: DNA, RNA, nucleate salts, nucleotides, nucleosides, purines and pyrimidines, 2 deoxy-D-ribose, D-ribose, and ribose 5-phosphate. Many of these have been radiolabeled. Write for our most recent catalog and price list.

You are invited to visit us at Booth 96 at next month's AAAS meeting.


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Dentistry

Section Nd. Two-session symposium, cosponsored by Section N—Medical Sciences, the American College of Dentists, the American Dental Association, and the International Association for Dental Research, North American Division: "Fundamentals of Keratinization," arranged by Earl O. Butcher, College of Dentistry, New York University; 30 Dec.

Butcher will preside over Session I, in which papers will be presented on the mechanism of keratinization (A. Gedeon Matoltsy, University of Miami); the histochemical distribution of sulfhydryls and disulfides in vertebrate keratin (R. J. Barrnett, Yale University School of Medicine, and Reidar F. Sognnaes, School of Dentistry, University of California, Los Angeles); keratinization of whole skin and isolated epidermis in vitro (George Szabo, Harvard Medical School); keratinization as seen with the electron microscope (J. A. Rhodin and E. J. Reith, New York University School of Medicine); the effects of vitamin A on keratinizing epithelia (Howard A. Bern and Donald J. Lawrence, Cancer Research Genetics Laboratory, University of California, Berkeley); effects of vitamin A on keratinization in the vitamin-A-deficient rat (J. P. Parnell and B. Sherman, Downstate Medical Center, State University of New York).

Sognnaes will preside over Session II. Papers will be presented on the effect of environment on the physical characteristics of the cornified epithelium (Irvin H. Blank, Harvard Medical School); keratinization of the oral mucosa (Julia Meyer, College of Dentistry, University of Illinois); keratinization in dental cysts (Jens J. Pindborg, Royal Dental College, Copenhagen); the extracellular position of enamel (M. L. Watson, University of Rochester); the chemistry of the protein matrix of enamel (K. A. Piez, National Institutes of Health).

Pharmacy

Section Np. There will be opening remarks by John E. Christian, secretary of Section Np, and this will be followed by greetings from the American Society of Hospital Pharmacists, the American Pharmaceutical Association, the New York State Council of Hospital Pharmacists, and the American Hospital Association.

There will be two sessions for contributed papers in hospital pharmacy, arranged by George F. Archambault, Division of Hospitals, U.S. Public Health Service, and Joseph A. Oddis, American Society of Hospital Pharmacists and American Pharmaceutical Association; 27 Dec. Oddis will preside over Session I; Archambault, over Session II.

On the same day there will be a luncheon, arranged by E. R. Squibb and Sons, New York (coordinated by P. A. Freeman), and the vice-presidential address of Section Np, "Dedication to Pharmacy," given by Joseph V. Swintosky.

On 27 Dec. there will also be programs arranged by Wyeth Laboratories, Philadelphia (coordinated by H. L. Ferrier), and by McKesson and Robbins, Inc., New York (coordinated by Milton N. Stamatos.

There will be two sessions for contributed papers, arranged by John E. Christian. John Autian (University of Texas) will preside over one of these, on 29 Dec.; Lee H. MacDonald (Upjohn Company, Kalamazoo, Mich.) will preside over the other, on 30 Dec.

The entire program of Section Np is cosponsored by the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy, the American College of Apothecaries, the American Pharmaceutical Association, the American Society of Hospital Pharmacists, and the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy.