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THIS award was originally established by Mead Johnson & Company January 30, 1932. "Mead Johnson & Company announces an award of $15,000 to be given to the investigator or group of investigators producing the most conclusive research on the vitamin A requirements of human beings." (See J.A.M.A., January 30, 1932, pages 14-15.)

On February 11, 1933 (J.A.M.A., pages 12-13), "At the suggestion of the Judges, a second (additional) Award of $5,000 is now offered. The basis for this enlargement is in the obvious possibility that within the time limit set (Dec. 31, 1934), no suitable evaluation of the vitamin A requirements of human beings will have appeared. On the other hand, a laboratory investigation may have been published which will point the way toward clinical evaluation."

On that date, the Judges for the award were announced:

Isaac A. Abt, Northwestern University; K. D. Blackfan, Harvard University; Alan Brown, University of Toronto; Horton R. Gasparis, Vanderbilt University; H. F. Helmholtz, Mayo Clinic; Alfred F. Hess, Columbia University; E. V. McCollum, Johns Hopkins University; L. B. Mendel, Yale University; L. T. Royster, University of Virginia; and Robert Strong, Tulane University.

Present Status

The Judges met in Detroit, April 10, 1935, and took the following action:

(1) To postpone until December 31, 1936, awarding of the main (Clinical) Award.

(2) To divide the second (Laboratory) Award, one-half to Dr. S. B. Wolbach, Harvard University, for his basic work on the pathology of avitaminosis A and his investigations on the regeneration of epithelial tissue impaired by vitamin A deficiency, and the relationship of vitamin A to the integrity of the teeth; and one-half to Dr. Karl E. Mason, Vanderbilt University, for distinguishing exactly between the pathology of avitaminosis A and avitaminosis E, and for his contribution to the quantitative relationship of vitamin A deficiency to the keratinization of germinal epithelia. Some of this original work is still in press.

Checks for $2,500 each, in accordance with the decision of the Judges, were promptly mailed by Mead Johnson & Company to Dr. S. B. Wolbach and to Dr. Karl E. Mason.

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