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THE WISTAR INSTITUTE OF ANATOMY AND BIOLOGY AND ITS ADVISORY BOARD¹

WE have assembled to-day to celebrate the twentieth anniversary of the organization of the advisory board of The Wistar Institute. It devolves upon me to tell you something of the history of The Wistar Institute and of the origin and purpose of its advisory board.

In a sense, this celebration is a family affair, of our board of managers, our local staff, our advisory board and our journal editors, to which have been invited a few colleagues from other laboratories and a few prominent citizens of Philadelphia who are interested in local institutions. Thus we meet as a social group brought together by a common interest and actuated by a sentiment which has grown with twenty years of effort in our field of science.

In a broader sense, this celebration is not especially to show what The Wistar Institute has accomplished, but rather to record the achievements of a method of procedure. Concentrated and coordinated efforts according to a program, might be our slogan.

To the lay citizens who honor us by their presence, we express our appreciation of the privilege of demonstrating what may be accomplished in biological science by cooperative activity.

To the University of Pennsylvania, under the leadership of Dr. William Pepper, a provost of prophetic vision, is due the credit for having organized the first biological research institute in this country.

General Isaac J. Wistar, by his princely gift to anatomical science, made it possible for the university to incorporate this institute under a charter from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania on an independent foundation and set it apart from other activities of the university in the pursuit of new and original knowledge.

With an appreciation of the results which may be accomplished by independent initiative, the university and General Wistar agreed that the relations which should exist between the mother institution and its offspring should be those of close cooperation while maintaining strict organic independence. This was accomplished by a law requiring the university to choose six of its board of nine managers, while the

¹ Read at the celebration of the twentieth anniversary of the advisory board of The Wistar Institute, April 13, 1925.

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