REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE AND SCIENTIFIC SESSIONS OF THE SOCIETY FOR INVESTIGATIVE DERMATOLOGY

NEW YORK, N. Y., TUESDAY, JUNE 11, 1940

The third annual meeting of The Society for Investigative Dermatology, Inc., held at the Commodore Hotel, New York, began officially at 9:00 A.M. About two hundred and fifty were present during the Scientific Sessions; one hundred and ten members and seventy-six non-members signed the register of the Society.

FIRST EXECUTIVE SESSION—9 A.M.

The meeting was called to order by the President, Dr. John H. Stokes. Dr. S. William Becker, Secretary, announced that the minutes of the last membership meeting had been published in August issue of Volume 11 of the Journal. He then read the minutes of the meeting of the Board of Directors on December 29th, 1939. The minutes of the membership meeting and of the Board of Directors meeting were approved by the membership.

Dr. J. Gardner Hopkins presented the Treasurer's report, and urged the members of the Society to publicize the aims and purposes of the organization among all those with similar interests, and to persuade them to join the Society, and give it their support. The report of the Treasurer and that of the Auditing Committee were approved by the membership.

Dr. John G. Downing, Chairman of the Membership Committee announced that twenty-eight candidates who had applied for admission to the Society had been approved by his Committee. The report was accepted by the membership.

Dr. Stokes called for proposals from the floor for additional nominations for membership to be referred to the Membership Committee and placed on the ballot.
The report of the Nominating Committee was deferred to the evening session.

Dr. Marion B. Sulzberger, Chairman of the Committee on Publications, presented the following report on behalf of his Committee:

**Report of the Committee on Publications**

Marion B. Sulzberger, M.D., Chairman

Volume II of the Journal, for 1939, numbered 379 pages. Since 500 pages had been contracted for, 121 pages remained to be credited. The publishers were kind enough to carry over this credit to subsequent volumes and a part has already been used for the Symposium on Acne. It is proposed to devote the remainder of the credited pages to symposia in other fields. This will permit the contracted 500 pages of Volume III to be used for the regular dermatologic contributions and for articles in related fields.

We received many responses to the symposium on acne, and only two of these were unfavorable.

Subscriptions for Volume II numbered 425 member subscribers and 105 non-member subscribers. Subscriptions for Volume III number 357 member subscribers to date. The number of subscriptions has naturally been reduced by the fact that foreign subscriptions have fallen off. One is justified in assuming that this degree of reduction would not have occurred under more normal conditions. The possibility of forming a foreign Editorial Board was considered, and the first step in this direction was taken. Drs. Hellerström of Stockholm, Goldsmith of London, Tzanek of Paris and Miescher of Zuerich accepted tentatively. In view of the present unsettled situation the project will probably be kept in abeyance.

Thirty articles were published in Volume II on investigative dermatology and its allied fields. Twenty-three of these were by dermatologic authors; 7 were submitted by other research specialists.

In the Recent Review of the Physiology of the Skin in the 1940 annual Review of Physiology, a total of 100 references appeared; of these 11 were from the Journal of Investigative Dermatology; 7 from the Archives of Dermatology and Syphilis; 1 each from the British Journal of Dermatology, the Dermatologische Zeitschrift, and the Dermatologische Wochenschrift, and the remainder were from non-dermatologic publications.

The Secretary of the American Association of Anatomists called the existence of our Society to the attention of the members of the Association at their 1940 meeting in Louisville. The statement was made that without the participation of anatomists, such a “Society of investigative dermatology is likely to be a sounding brass or a tinkling cymbal.” Further evidence of general interest in the Journal is the fact that the recent symposium on Acne was discussed in the Editorial columns of the Journal of the American Medical Association, Vol. 114, page 2223, 1940.

In spite of all these promising beginnings, unless there is more general support of the Society and the Journal, the probability is that it will either have to find private subsidy or cease to exist.
All of the directors and the editors of the Journal have given unstintingly of their time and energy. The many excellent papers contributed and the large number of favorable comments and abstracts received all attest to the fact that many physicians and scientists, both inside and outside dermatology, are aware of the importance of our work and eager to continue in its support. It would be a great pity indeed if, in these times, when it is so urgently necessary for American medicine to keep in the van of scientific achievement, and when it is so imperative for the future existence of our Specialty to bring its possibilities before the medical and scientific world—it would indeed be a pity—if the work of this Society and Journal were to be interrupted or discontinued because of lack of support on the part of American dermatologists.

The editors are willing to continue on the present basis for one more year, provided that during the forthcoming year there is a real, material increase in the number of subscribers. Certainly every dermatologist who can afford to do so should become a member of the Society, and there is little doubt that if this is done the Journal will be able to continue and even to expand its field of activity and influence.

The small membership fee not only gives each member a great many invaluable privileges, but also gives him a subscription to the Journal. Perhaps more important still, membership gives him the satisfaction of contributing his share to the advancement of scientific dermatology and to the maintenance of the important role of dermatology in medicine and of the dermatologist in the community.

For even the early skeptics and critics of the new Society and Journal are now in unanimous agreement that they have proven their worth. It is generally agreed that if the specialty of dermatology and syphilology is to continue in its present high regard, we need not only societies and journals to disseminate information and teaching among our fellow specialists, but we need also a society and journal to disseminate knowledge gained in scientific dermatology to those who are working in other specialities and in general medicine and science.

It is the hope of the Editorial Board therefore, that each member will not only renew his subscription for the coming year, but that all members in arrears will promptly pay their dues and that all dermatologists who are not yet members will file their applications now.

In addition to this, each member should make every endeavor to bring the Journal and Society to the attention of non-dermatologists with whom he has contact and to show them the advantages which they would derive from membership in the Society, or from subscription to the Journal.

This report was approved by the membership.

Dr. Samuel M. Peck, Chairman of the Committee on Scientific Programs, made the following report:

Report of Committee on Scientific Programs

Dr. Samuel M. Peck, Chairman

The Committee received a total of 40 requests for presentation of papers at this meeting of our Society. Unfortunately, the limitations of time prevented us from selecting more than 14 papers for reading at this meeting. Our choice had to be determined not only by the excellence of the material presented, but
also by the deadline to which we were forced to adhere for the receipt of manuscripts.

We wish to apologize for not being able to present the many other excellent papers which we were asked to place on the program. We hope that these papers will be contributed to the Journal of Investigative Dermatology.

It may be advisable to consider the possibility of extending our sessions another day at forthcoming meetings in order to make it possible for additional important contributions to be made in the field of dermatologic research.

The report of this Committee was accepted by the membership.

It was moved that the following be elected honorary members of the Society in recognition of their important contributions to dermatologic research: Dr. J. J. Puente, Argentine, Dr. Howard Fox, New York City, and Dr. Wilhelm Frei, New York City. The motion was unanimously carried.

SCIENTIFIC SESSIONS

The first Scientific Session was opened at 10:00 A.M. by the President, Dr. Stokes, whose Presidential Address was on "Changing Causal Concepts and Investigative Methods."

There were two scientific sessions. Both sessions were well attended, and the papers presented evoked lively and enthusiastic discussion. Fourteen contributions in all were presented and discussed. The majority of these will appear in the pages of the Journal during the coming year. (A list of the papers presented is appended at the conclusion of this report.)

Morning Session

3. The Value of Administration of Liver Extract Injections in Patients Intolerant to Arsenicals or Heavy Metals or Radiation. George M. MacKee, M.D., and Girsch D. Astrachan, M.D., New York Post-Graduate Medical School of Columbia University, New York.
5. The Influence of Vitamin C in the Production of Arsphenamine Sensitiveness. Frank E. Cormia, Montreal.
Afternoon Session


8. Dermovascular Action of Estrogen. The Ovarian Follicular Hormone. Samuel R. M. Reynolds, M.A., Ph.D., Department of Physiology, Long Island College of Medicine, Brooklyn, N. Y.

9. Male Hormone Substances, Inductors of Acne. James B. Hamilton, Ph.D. Department of Anatomy, Yale University School of Medicine, New Haven.

10. Dysfunction of the Sebaceous Glands in Pellagra. Susan G. Smith, M.A., and David T. Smith, M.D., Department of Medicine, Duke University School of Medicine, Durham, N. C.

11. The Role of the Unsaturated Fatty Acids in the Acrodynia (Vitamin B6 Deficiency) of the Albino Rat. Paul Gross, M.D., Department of Dermatology, Columbia University Medical School, New York.

12. Tinea Capitis. Clarence S. Livingood, M.D., and Donald M. Pillsbury, M.D., Philadelphia.


SECOND EXECUTIVE SESSION—8 P.M.

The Nominating Committee presented its report, proposing the following candidates as Officers of the Society:

For President: Dr. Bedford Shelmire, Dallas, Texas.

For Vice-President: Dr. E. W. Netherton, Cleveland, Ohio.

For Director: Dr. H. J. Templeton, Oakland, California.

Dr. Stokes asked for further proposals from the floor for nominations for officers and for membership.

Election of officers took place, and the candidates proposed to office by the Nominating Committee were unanimously elected.

Dr. Hamilton Montgomery, of the Mayo Clinic, was appointed Chairman of the Membership Committee by the incoming President.

The following thirty-eight new members were unanimously elected:

MEMBERS ELECTED AT THE THIRD ANNUAL MEETING, JUNE 11, 1940

Backus-Jordan, Charlotte, Stroudsburg, Penna.

Becker, Fred, Duluth, Minn.
It was decided that the fourth annual meeting of the Society should take place in Cleveland, the day preceding the meeting of the Dermatologic Section of the American Medical Association. The question as to whether one or two days should be devoted to this meeting was left to the discretion of the Board of Directors.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 P.M.