

## EDITORIAL

### An Anniversary Challenge

About one year ago we marked a major milestone in the history of *The Journal of Investigative Dermatology* when we celebrated the joint sponsorship of the Journal by the Society for Investigative Dermatology and the European Society for Dermatological Research. At that time we briefly reviewed the history of our younger partner and noted the major progress that the ESDR has made in its short lifetime. This month marks a major anniversary for the SID and it should not pass unnoticed. Dr. J. Lamar Callaway has reminded us that 40 years ago the original organizing meeting that led to the formation of the Society for Investigative Dermatology took place, and he has supplied a copy of the minutes of the first meeting. The sensitivities, imagination, and foresight of our founders are beautifully portrayed in these original minutes of the meeting as recorded by Sam Becker.

A meeting was held on February 7, 1937, at the office of Dr. J. H. Stokes in Philadelphia, to discuss the advisability of organizing a research society in dermatology. The following were present: Drs. J. H. Stokes, Joseph V. Klauder, Sigmund Greenbaum, Marion B. Sulzberger, Samuel M. Peck, Donald Pillsbury, J. L. Callaway, and S. W. Becker.

Dr. Sulzberger gave a historical resume of the discussion relative to formation of a research society in dermatology for the purpose of stimulating younger men to do research. He stated that \$2,000 will publish a journal for one year and suggested an endeavor to enlist the aid of 200 subscribers at ten dollars each. Other New York dermatologists feel that an additional outlet should be available for publication of dermatological papers. It has been recently suggested that an American Academy of Dermatology be formed, to be headed by older men and to be turned over to the younger men later, the founders of the Academy to be chosen by the American Dermatological Association and the American Medical Association. The belief of some is that the Academy should be representative and should be launched at the Section meeting of the American Medical Society.

Criticism has been made of calling a society or a journal "experimental," since there may be need for expansion at a later date. Dr. Klauder called attention to the fact that investigation of the literature is often as valuable as clinical or laboratory investigation. Discussion was entered into relative to the difficulties in publication and the difficulty in the rather limited program of the American Medical Association section. If a journal is to be purely experimental, it may be difficult to get subscribers. Dr. Klauder was of the belief that the requirements should not be too rigid.

Dr. Stokes stated that we are handicapped by the limited publication facilities in the line of dermatological journals. He expressed his belief that a new journal could be financed but that it should not be confined to experimental articles. He expressed a need for a new society to stimulate the few creative minds in dermatology, and emphasized that good dermatological investigative work is being done by internists, anatomists, and others. He also emphasized the necessity for a struggle to keep internists from taking over certain phases of dermatological work . . . a new journal would be an instrument for recapturing the field of research in dermatology and . . . a new society would be necessary for presentation of investigative material which cannot be grouped together under present arrangements. He suggested that we enlist the support of all creative research workers interested in dermatology and associated fields.

Dr. Sulzberger stated that we all seem to be agreed on the necessity of a new society, the functions of which will be to elevate the level of investigative dermatology and improve the prestige of dermatology. . . .

I believe we have met the challenges our founders laid down for the first 40 years but we cannot rest on our accomplishments. Dermatology has changed since 1937; clinical medicine and medical science are not recognizable for what they were 40 years ago; the world is a vastly different place than it was when that organizational meeting was held. This seems to be an auspicious time for the Society for Investigative Dermatology to ask the same questions which many of its members ask at age 40— are the old goals, the old aims still valid? The answer is as clear for the Society as it is for each member— some of the goals and aims are still valid; others are not. The responsibility now falls upon us to identify which is which, to set new directions for the future, and to show as much insight into the decades to come as our founders showed towards the four decades that have passed.