



EDITORIALS

THE ANNUAL MEETING

The founders of the American Diabetes Association originally established the Annual Meeting in the belief that it would be a major interest of the Membership. Since then the Association has developed new and varied functions, but the Annual Meeting continues to hold its place of importance.

The details of the Program for the Meeting in June 1952 are presented elsewhere in this issue of the Journal. It includes a well-balanced selection of scientific papers dealing with both investigation and practice. The highlight will be the Banting Memorial Lecture, to be delivered by Professor Charles H. Best.

A joint session with the Endocrine Society will again be held. Since the two Societies have numerous interests which coincide and since many of our members belong to both, the combined sessions held in recent years have proved mutually advantageous.

The panel discussions which were tried with success last year will be repeated at this meeting. Members are urged to submit questions which they wish answered for their own information and for the general interest of the audience.

The banquet will provide an occasion for sociability. It also promises to be a noteworthy event in the history of the Association for reasons which will be revealed in due time.

The Scientific Sessions will be followed by a Conference of Affiliate Associations, which will permit exchange

of ideas and development of projects to serve diabetics throughout the continent. Mention should also be made of the activities carried on in advance of the Scientific Sessions. The year-round activities of the Association are largely determined by work done during meetings of the Council and the Committees held at this time.

The Twelfth Annual Meeting at Chicago promises to be unusually valuable and productive for the Association and its Members.

BIOLOGICAL ANTAGONISM

The concept of the "essential metabolite" as the key-stone of metabolic processes has been generally accepted in modern biological thought. In tracing pathways of the intermediary metabolism of such metabolites, the use of isotopes has been extremely valuable. A second approach to such investigations is the use of an analogue of a metabolite which competes with the metabolite for a biological substrate but is unable to substitute for it in the subsequent metabolic reactions. The result is an interference with an essential metabolic process.

Such an interference may have widespread uses and effects. For example, it may lead to the discovery of a new metabolite, as in the case of para-amino benzoic acid, or to the discovery of a new function of a previously known metabolite, such as the demonstration that tryptophane may be a precursor of nicotinic acid. By the proper choice of such antagonistic agents, it may be possible to explore the steps in various metabolic