

George John Hamwi, M.D.

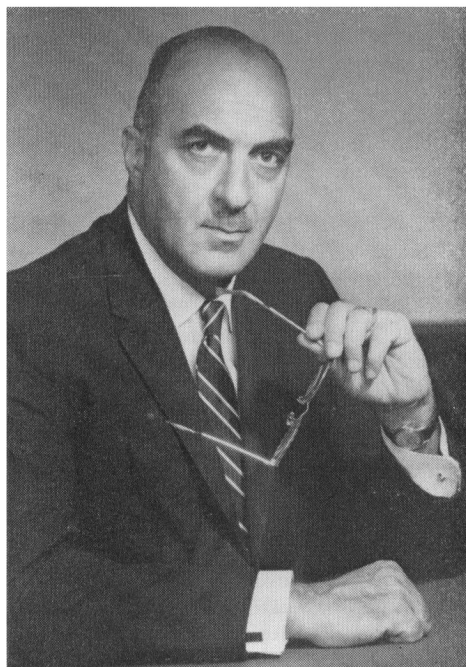
1914-1967

Thomas G. Skillman, M.D., Columbus, Ohio

George John Hamwi died suddenly on Feb. 14, 1967, of a myocardial infarction. At this time his work and accomplishments were at their fullest. He had been serving the American Diabetes Association as Treasurer, Member of the Board of Directors, Chairman of the Committee on Professional Education and was editing Volume 2 of *Diabetes Mellitus: Diagnosis and Treatment*. He was equally involved with his duties as Professor of Medicine and Director of the Division of Endocrinology and Metabolism of the Ohio State University College of Medicine and the office of President of the Central Ohio Diabetes Association.

George Hamwi was born in New York City on July 23, 1914. He attended Columbia University from 1932 to 1935 and received his Bachelor of Science Degree from American University, Beirut, Lebanon, in 1936. In that year he represented the third generation of his family to matriculate in medicine in Beirut. After obtaining his M.D. in 1940, he returned to New York and interned at Metropolitan Hospital. He received further training in 1941-42 at Presbyterian Hospital in Philadelphia before volunteering for military duty. He served as a Naval Flight Surgeon from March 1942 until July 1946, and spent seventeen months of this time in the Pacific theater. After World War II he visited Ohio and elected to adopt Columbus as his home. At Ohio State he took training as a graduate student and resident in pathology during 1946-47 and served as Chief Resident in Medicine in 1947-48. During 1948-49 he returned to New York for a Fellowship in Metabolism and Endocrinology at Cornell with Ephraim Shorr. In July 1949, he became the first member of the Division of Endocrinology and Metabolism at the Ohio State University College of Medicine.

In October 1942, George married Isabel Roberts of Scarsdale, New York. "Betts" Hamwi participated ac-



tively in her husband's vigorous career. She shared George's love for people and the Hamwi household was known as a pleasant and gay haven for visiting academicians and a lively forum for spirited debate. Their three sons, George, Jr., Paul, and Alan were a source of great pride and often accompanied their parents on medical travels.

The interests of George Hamwi were diverse and intense. His activities reflected functional integration of the study, practice and teaching of medicine. He was quick to explore and apply new concepts and wisely retained effective traditional ones. He maintained a continuing interest in general medicine and served as President of the Ohio State Medical Association during 1962-63. He enjoyed a reputation as an astute clinician, a skillful parliamentarian and a wise advisor. His many publications attested to both the breadth of his curiosity and the vigor of his activities. If it could be said that he had a selective interest, it was diabetes mellitus. He traveled widely and visited most people doing research in the field of diabetes. He was equally effective discussing intermediary metabolism as he was clinical medicine, and he constantly strove to utilize the knowledge of biochemistry in the management of his patients.

It is impossible to discuss George Hamwi without making reference to his personality. Doubtless, he was one of the friendliest and most convivial men in medi-

cine. He had a sincere appreciation for the ideas of others and frequently spent hours stimulating and encouraging those with whom he worked. His qualities of persuasion and leadership were unique. He was able to introduce harmony through his skill in debate, and he brought efficiency through his exceptional talent of organization. His persuasive power is exemplified by a vignette: at one time during the war in the Pacific

he negotiated the transfer of an entire portable Army Field Hospital at the cost of five bottles of Navy rye whiskey. It has already been written that George Hamwi was one of the few who maintained a full interest in both laboratory and clinical medicine (*Yearbook of Endocrinology*. T. Schwartz, Editor. Chicago, Yearbook Medical Publishers, 1967, p. 71). Certainly, his passing takes from us a vigorous, colorful and wise friend.

BOOK REVIEWS

ADVANCES IN CARBOHYDRATE CHEMISTRY. Vol. 21, M. L. Wolfrom, Editor. \$19.50. New York, Academic Press, 1966.

This volume represents the latest of a series dedicated to comprehensive reviews of subjects in carbohydrate chemistry. It begins with a brief biography of the great German chemist, Emil Fischer, and an assessment of his contributions to carbohydrate chemistry by K. Freudenberg which is of interest. Subsequent chapters deal with Mass Spectrometry of Carbohydrate Derivatives, The Glycofuranosides, Deoxy Sugars, Complexes of Alkali Metals and Alkaline-earth Metals with Carbohydrates, Synthetic Cardenolides, The Techoic Acids, Effects of Plant-growth Substances on Carbohydrate Systems, and Chemical Synthesis of Polysaccharides. Inspection of the chapter titles makes clear that the volume primarily involves problems in the organic chemistry of carbohydrates with emphasis on synthesis and analysis. While a number of the compounds reviewed have major importance in biological systems, physiological and biochemical aspects of their chemistry are not covered. As a consequence the volume will not be of major interest to clinicians or investigators concerned mainly with carbohydrate metabolism. It is clearly a valuable reference volume for the pure carbohydrate chemist. Organization of the book and readability are excellent and the index is very satisfactory.

FRUIT AND VEGETABLES. R. B. Duckworth, B. Sc., Ph. D. \$7.00. London, Pergamon Press, 1966, pp. 306.

As the title of this book suggests, the information found in it is strictly limited to fruit and vegetables. It is intended as a text on the subject and should be useful to students of food science and food technology. Dietitians and nutritionists will find it useful as a reference. It may also be placed in the food factory laboratory and in science libraries.

A splendid history of background information is found in the introduction. Record of man's efforts to control his en-

vironment are traced back as far as 5,000 and 7,000 B.C.

The book is divided into two parts. The first part includes four chapters on the subject of chemical constitution, structure, physiology, and microbiology. There are tables of inestimable value. Drawings showing the structure of stems, leaves, and fruits are clear and of value in teaching. The physiological processes after harvesting are most interesting. Attention is drawn to the individual characteristic pattern of change in each fruit and vegetable. The description of the part respiration plays in the metabolism of all harvested plant tissue is clear and concise. The physiological disorders resulting from the removal of the fruit from the parent plant are described as senescence.

Attention is paid to the activity of micro-organisms which cause spoilage. Attempts are described which endeavor to keep infection of material with potential spoilage at as low a level as possible. Drawings of the characteristic appearance of the spore-bearing structures of some of the important mould genera are shown.

The second part of the book deals with the utilization of these foods. Maps showing the main areas of the world where our major fruits and vegetables are cultivated should prove of value to all. Trade difficulties are discussed. A chapter of special interest to the dietitian and nutritionist includes food values. Transportation, storage, and marketing are covered. The chapter on processing of foods is of value and of great interest. The use of ionizing radiation is discussed.

Tables of food composition of fruit and vegetables and an interesting chart on statistics of world products and trade are to be found in the appendix. For practical reasons the reader should find the commodity index as well as the subject index of great value.

After reading this small book, one wonders how so much research material as well as pictures and diagrams could possibly be found in one volume. When using it as a reference, the student should find that much time may be saved.