

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON DETECTION AND EDUCATION

During Diabetes Week, November 16-22, the fifth annual Diabetes Detection Drive was renewed with a nationwide screening effort by over 800 local committees. Since the statistics of the activity are not complete at the present time, this report must, of necessity, be in the nature of a commentary on the program as a whole.

In 1948, the American Diabetes Association started the detection and education program for the purpose of alerting the medical profession and the public to the need for early diagnosis and proper management of this ailment. Inaugurated under the able chairmanship of Dr. Howard F. Root, the annual program has increased in scope and effectiveness in the years that followed. Diabetes Week has been set aside for the recognition of this work and it has been endorsed by many national and professional organizations. There has been a steady and impressive growth of educational material on our program appearing in professional and lay publications and being broadcast through radio and television channels.

Organizationally, there has been excellent cooperative action by our 31 affiliate associations and by an additional 800 committees of State and County Medical Societies supported by educational, civic, industrial, labor and service groups throughout the country. For details, I can refer you to the progressive reports issued by the national office of the Association. (See *DIABETES* 2: 81-82, Jan.-Feb. 1953)

When we started this professional and public educational program, we outlined certain basic concepts to guide our organization. First, it was agreed that our approach to a chronic condition like diabetes must be along the lines of preventive medicine. The disabling effects of diabetes could often be prevented, if dis-

covered early and proper management was instituted promptly.

This approach then led to the need for medical technicians to discover early diabetes or metabolic tendencies toward that condition, and an organizational form for bringing such detection apparatus to the public, so that large numbers of persons could use it quickly and effectively. This, in turn, led to nationwide community organization, with extensive public education and participation.

It has been axiomatic with the American Diabetes Association that it is the responsibility of the medical profession to discover and diagnose diabetes as early as possible. This concept has been adopted by many other groups which have developed preventive medical programs. But while it is the primary responsibility of the physicians of America to undertake detection and prevention programs, it becomes necessary for their success that a network of community organization be set up, under the leadership of the medical profession, which can bring this program to groups and individuals in all walks of life. Indeed, from our experience, as well as that of others conducting similar prevention programs, it is evident that the better the community organization the more effective the detection program.

Planning at the community level, the Association has secured the widespread cooperation of state and county medical societies in carrying out the screening program and the education of the public to the necessity of prompt detection of diabetes. The thirty-one affiliates of the Association have done yeoman work in organizing Diabetes Detection Drives in their communities. Many have displayed initiative and originality in amplifying plans of the National Committee, and have contributed new technics and educational presentations that have added to the general effectiveness of every section of our organization.

The acceptance of our detection and education program is evidenced by the ever increasing growth in numbers of medical groups participating in the nationwide search for the unknown diabetic. They now num-

The above report was presented at the interim meeting of the Council of the American Diabetes Association, January 17-18, 1953. It was accepted with commendation for Dr. Reed and his committee.

Dr. Reed was reappointed chairman of the committee for the current year, and will proceed with plans for the sixth annual Diabetes Detection Drive.

ber over 800, as I mentioned before. There is also no question of the growing public awareness of the need for early diabetes detection. The impressive newspaper and radio space and time donated to our Diabetes Week activities is a further confirmation of civic appreciation for our efforts.

It is the opinion of the Committee that this program of detection and education has proved its worth and should be continued and expanded. Careful examination should be made of all its phases with a view to improving them and increasing the number of individuals screened. The problem of follow-up studies should be emphasized; where they have been inaugurated they have been most revealing and of great value from a medical point of view.

Any shortcomings of this detection and education program seem to be those of execution, rather than of principle or planning. The organization of so large a public as ours by voluntary means is not easy, and although our community facilities for testing have grown over the years, there is still vast room for expanding this accommodation. The acceptance of our publicity, both professional and public, has been gratifying.

Records and displays at the National Office are witness to that.

Increased efficiency in the work of the Committees on Diabetes, conscientious record-keeping and prompt reporting, as well as intelligent follow-up studies of individuals tested will improve the effectiveness of our work. These have improved over the years, and I have no doubt but that they will continue to improve until our highest expectations have been reached.

One phase of this work, which is an inevitable concurrent, is education, both to the laity and the profession, which conforms to a basic concept of this Association. A distinct effort should, and is, being made to broaden this very important aspect of the program.

Each year we are able to detect and advise many unknown diabetics so that they are able to take measures which will prevent their developing disabling future complications. As we see this figure growing, we can feel assured that the American Diabetes Association and its cooperating groups are performing a real service to the American people.

JOHN A. REED, M.D., *Chairman,*
Committee on Detection and Education

The First Postgraduate Course in Diabetes Successfully Completed

The first Postgraduate Course in diabetes and basic metabolic problems conducted by the American Diabetes Association, under the direction of Charles H. Best, M.D., Director of the Banting and Best Department of Medical Research of the University of Toronto, was held successfully at the University of Toronto on January 19, 20, and 21, 1953.

The organization and the presentation of the Postgraduate Course, under the chairmanship of Edward L. Bortz, M.D., and the Committee on Postgraduate Education, was commented on universally, with special appreciation of the work of the Course's Clinical Director, Ray F. Farquharson, M.B., Professor of Medicine of the University of Toronto, and Associate Clinical Director Andrew L. Chute, M.D., Professor of Pediatrics at the University of Toronto, who placed the facilities and the conveniences of the Hospital for Sick Children at the disposal of all who attended the Course. The

new hospital's excellently designed and comfortable lecture theatre provided an ideal setting for the talks and discussions and the facilities of its staff cafeteria were available throughout the day for luncheon and other refreshments.

REGISTRANTS REPORT

As to the Course itself, which is now history, the best report on it can be found among the three-page questionnaires which were distributed to the registrants for their comment on the value of each lecture and discussion as well as their estimate of the manner of its presentation. Although signature to this questionnaire was optional, reports of those attending were uniformly favorable. Here are some quotations from the registrants' remarks:

"I have attended numerous postgraduate courses and