

# Joseph T. Beardwood, Jr.

## (1896-1970)

*Arthur R. Colwell, Sr., M.D., Chicago*

Joseph Thomas Beardwood, Jr., passed away in Abington, Pennsylvania on April 11, 1970. In his death, Philadelphia, and Abington in particular, lost one of their most beloved and distinguished physicians, and the American Diabetes Association lost a great, good friend of long standing.

Dr. Beardwood was born in Philadelphia May 15, 1896. He lived and practiced there all his life, although in later years he lived in the suburb Abington where he was chief of the Medical Service in the Abington Memorial Hospital. Earlier he also had offices in Philadelphia, taught in the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine and in its Postgraduate School, serving also as consultant in metabolic diseases in Philadelphia's Presbyterian Hospital. At the time of his death he held appointment as Emeritus Professor of Medicine in the University of Pennsylvania.

Probably his chief distinction was his interest and pioneering skill in the founding of diabetes associations. Long before the formation of the American Diabetes Association in 1940, he was instrumental in the organization of the Philadelphia Metabolic Association and led in its program activities. Similar associations devoted to diabetes then existed in Cincinnati, New York, Detroit and Rochester, New York. In the late 1930's Dr. Beardwood was one of a small nucleus which planned and then succeeded in founding, the American Diabetes Association, with national offices first in Cincinnati, then Brooklyn for a short time, and finally New York City. Dr. Beardwood was chairman of the original Committee on Constitution and Bylaws of the new association. He succeeded Dr. Cecil Striker, its first President, and Dr. Herman Mosenthal, its second, as President for the two terms 1942-43 and 1943-44. For many years he then served on the Board of Directors, chaired the Committee on Employment and Insurance, and was active in the initiation of the Association's journal, and postgraduate courses.

A graduate of the University of Pennsylvania in 1917, Dr. Beardwood also had his medical training there and his internship at the Presbyterian Hospital. The time of his medical degree also coincided with the discovery of insulin in 1921, a fact which undoubtedly led to an



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early interest in diabetes which flourished until he became an authority. National prominence came from his leadership in organizational activities, together with teaching and many contributions to the medical literature on diabetes and obesity.

Dr. Beardwood was a warm, faithful and friendly person with a delicious sense of humor. He had countless friends and admirers among physicians all over the country and citizens of the Philadelphia area. He was an enthusiastic golfer and a good one. His wife preceded him in death by a decade or so. They are survived by two sons, Donald H. Beardwood, M.D., who followed in his father's professional footsteps, Joseph T. Beardwood, III, and a daughter, Mrs. Deborah Lynch.