

INTRODUCTION

The year 1959 marks the fiftieth anniversary of the American Society for Clinical Investigation and the thirty-fifth year of its publication, the *Journal of Clinical Investigation*. It appeared fitting to the Council of the Society that the history of the Society and the *Journal* be recorded on the occasion of these anniversaries.

The further decision to publish these histories as a supplement to the *Journal of Clinical Investigation* requires some justification. The vicissitudes of an organization may be of interest to its members; but should nonmembers be expected to evince a comparable interest? Is it justifiable to publish a lengthy historical dissertation in a journal devoted entirely to scientific material? We feel that these questions should be answered in the affirmative. The readers of this *Journal* are not total strangers. They constitute a small and select group of scientists whose interest in clinical investigation binds them into a community which has a strong common interest with the Society and the *Journal*. Whether or not they are actual members of the organization, they participate in activities which the *Journal* and the Society were organized to encourage. During the years since their founding the Society and its publication have both molded and reflected the evolution of clinical investigation. The activities of all of our readers have been affected by the interests and influence of the Society. It therefore appeared probable that most clinical investigators would be interested in the perspective offered by a review of the early days of clinical investigation and by the part played by these organizations in the development of the present pattern of medical research. With these considerations in mind, the Council of the Society decided to underwrite the publication of these histories in the *Journal of Clinical Investigation*.

The compilation of this supplement was time

consuming and difficult. It had originally been hoped that one of the distinguished emeritus members of the Society would undertake to write its history, but the task proved too demanding and the several candidates gracefully declined. Fortunately, a member of the editorial secretarial staff of the *Journal* who had been trained as a writer and historian was willing to undertake the burden. Mrs. Ellen R. Brainard has therefore written the histories. She was greatly aided by many of our members and emeritus members. We are grateful to them for their help. In addition to those whose communications are acknowledged in the text, we are particularly indebted to Drs. Dana Atchley, C. Sidney Burwell, Allan M. Butler, Joseph M. Hayman, Elliott P. Joslin, Roger I. Lee, Robert F. Loeb, Thomas M. Rivers and W. Barry Wood, Jr., for personal reminiscences and unpublished material, and to Drs. Arthur Bloomfield, Saul J. Farber, John A. Luetscher, Jr., J. Howard Means, and John R. Paul, who reviewed the manuscripts and made many helpful suggestions.

—PHILIP K. BONDY

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