

# The CLINICAL Chemist

NEWSLETTER OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF CLINICAL CHEMISTS, INC.

VOLUME 3, NUMBER 1

JANUARY 1951

## John G. Reinhold Elected President

John G. Reinhold has been elected president of the AACC by the members in their annual election. Serving with him will be Albert E. Sobel, vice-president; Max M. Friedman, secretary and Louis B. Dotti, treasurer. Members of the Executive Committee will be Fritz Bischoff, George T. Lewis, Marschelle H. Power, Harry Sobotka and Ellenmae Viergiver.

The slate of new officers and members of the Executive Committee proposed by the Nominating Committee was overwhelmingly endorsed by members of the AACC. The several candidates received from 89 to 90 per cent of the votes tallied.

Dr. Reinhold, president-elect, is now serving as vice-president, and Dr. Sobel, the new vice-president, is now a member of the Executive Committee. Dr. Friedman and Dr. Dotti were re-elected secretary and treasurer, respectively. With the exception of Dr. Sobotka, who is now president, the new members of the Executive Committee are all to serve for the first time.

It was the opinion of the 1950 Nominating Committee, responsible for the above selections, that the Executive Committee should be of national representation, and yet allow for a nucleus in a more limited geographical area so as to permit them to convene several times during the year. Members are allowed traveling expenses only up to ten dollars to and from such meetings (with no allowances during the Stated Annual Meeting).

The ballots were tallied on December 26, 1950 by Albert Hanock, Mary H. McKenna and Fred Schattner. Almost 60 per cent of the ballots distributed were returned and none were declared invalid.



Harry Sobotka, president of the AACC

## STATE OF THE ASSOCIATION By Harry Sobotka

At the conclusion of the second year of its existence I wish to recount the progress which our Association has made in 1950 and to detail the activities on which we are concentrating our efforts.

The membership has risen from 139 to 328. Eleven additional candidates have applied, been certified by the Membership Committee for formal election by the Executive Committee and ten applications are being processed; two members only have resigned. In addition to the three eastern local sections, a section has been formed in Southern California and one in Chicago. About two-thirds of the total membership is now organized in local sections. There are strong contingents centering around Detroit, St. Louis and Washington and we hope that such local groups will soon recognize that the organization of a local section enhances the value of membership: The exchange of ideas on clinical chemistry methods, the promotion of favorable legislative measures, and the communication of information on desirable openings for clinical chemists count amongst the useful functions of our local sections.

The Executive Committee has been faced with numerous issues concern-

## New Group To Rate Clinical Chemistry

The Chemical and Engineering News of December 18, 1950, carried a story concerning the formation of a corporation called the American Board of Clinical Chemistry, Inc. This Corporation has been established by representatives from the American Chemical Society, Inc., The American Society of Biological Chemists, Inc. and the American Institute of Chemists, Inc.

The purpose of this corporation according to a news release received from the American Board of Clinical Chemistry, is to encourage the study and improve the practice of clinical chemistry; to approve those with special knowledge in clinical chemistry to furnish, in the public interest, a registry of individuals with specialized knowledge in clinical chemistry.

The purpose, the requirements for admission to examination and certification as they appear in the Chemical and Engineering News are reprinted elsewhere in this issue.

The members of this corporation with their highest earned degrees, their titles and their affiliations follow:

O.A. Bessey, Ph.D., Professor of Biochemistry, University of Illinois; president. D.D. Van Slyke, Ph.D., Assistant Director and Physiologist, Brookhaven National Laboratories; vice-president. J.W.E. Harrison, Pharm.M., Director, La Wall and Harrison; secretary-treasurer. H.H. Bunzell, Ph.D., Consulting Chemist, New York City. O.H. Gaebler, Ph.D., M.D., Head, Department of Biochemistry, Edsel B. Ford Institute of Medical Research, Detroit, Mich. J.M. Luck, Ph.D., Professor of Biochemistry, Leland Stanford Jr. University, Stanford, Calif. C.W. Muehlberger, Ph.D., State Toxicologist and

(Continued on page 3)

(Continued on page 9)

Newsletter of the American Association  
of Clinical Chemists, Inc.

P.O. Box 123  
Lenox Hill Station New York 21, N.Y.

## EDITORIAL BOARD

Harold D. Appleton, *Chairman*  
Max M. Friedman — Roy W. Bonsnes

MANAGING EDITOR  
Marjorie Prager

## CONTRIBUTING EDITORS

Hona D. Lesnyak, *Boston Section*  
Ellenmae Vieregiver, *Philadelphia Section*  
Arnold Ware, *Southern California Section*

*Views expressed in the editorials and  
opinions advanced by contributors do not  
necessarily represent the official position  
of the American Association of Clinical  
Chemists.*

VOL. 3, NO. 1 JANUARY 1951

## "CERTIFICATION" WITHOUT REPRESENTATION

The Chemical and Engineering News of December 18, 1950, carried an article announcing the fact that an American Board of Clinical Chemistry has been incorporated.

The members of this Board, the purpose of this Corporation, the qualifications for certification, the forms for application, and the fees required for applying for certification as they appeared in the Chemical and Engineering News are reprinted in another part of THE CLINICAL CHEMIST.

The Association had no previous knowledge that the announcement was forthcoming. Nor has the Association been consulted in any way concerning the drafting of qualifications required for certification. There has, therefore, been very little time to study all the implications of these requirements.

The officers and the members of the Executive Committee of the Association have taken the matter under consideration. A special meeting of the Executive Committee was called by the president and was held in New York on December 28, 1950, to consider this matter which is of paramount importance to all of us.

The general consensus of opinion of members of the Executive Com-

mittee at this meeting can be summarized as being one of disappointment with the composition of this Board as it was finally incorporated and disapproval of some of the qualifications required for certification.

However, the members of the Executive Committee want to assure themselves that the qualifications as published represent the actual form in which the requirements for certification are cast before they arrive at any definite conclusion.

Therefore, they sent a letter of inquiry to the secretary of the Board asking for further information on which to make a definitive decision. The text of this letter follows:

"We have read with great interest the news release in Chemical and Engineering News, Volume 28, page 4446, concerning certification of clinical chemists. The American Association of Clinical Chemists has a membership distributed throughout the United States and Canada. Our requirements are at a high level of professional and scientific accomplishments. It is therefore apparent that we would be the ones involved and most interested in the certification of clinical chemists."

"Since our Association has at no time been consulted by, and is not officially represented on the Board of Clinical Chemistry, we should appreciate a more complete statement including articles of incorporation and by-laws so that we may study them and report our conclusions to the membership at large."

"We should like to be able to include your answer in our newsletter going to press January 8th."

The secretary of this board has replied. The text of his letter, received on January 5, 1951, follows:

"Herewith I am sending to you a photostat of the Charter, pages 1 to 9 inclusive. Pages 9 and following have signatures and jurats and therefore I do not believe of interest to you, although should you feel you desire page 9, which carries the actual signatures, I shall be happy to forward it."

"The By-Laws I gave to Reinhold, who was in the office today. You will

note when you receive them from him, that certain sections or parts of sections have been stricken. All these are now included in the Charter, and if you desire you may check them. Therefore, the By-Laws stand as corrected copy shows. I am sorry I do not have a fresh typewritten copy and I am hoping you can get along with this inasmuch as to retype it will involve some expense."

"If I can be of any further assistance to you in offering factual data so far as it can be released, do not hesitate to call upon me."

Those portions of the Certificate of Incorporation received, and which are referred to in the above letter as the Charter, are published in full elsewhere in this issue. As we go to press the By-Laws have not been received.

When all the data are available upon which a decision can be based we shall advise the members of the official position of the Association and the reason for such a decision.

In the meantime comments and criticism on this matter are invited from all the members.

\*\*\*\*\*

### NEW MEMBERS ELECTED BY THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ON DECEMBER 28, 1950.

Bond, Epperson E., Chicago, Ill.  
De Frates, Joseph, Philadelphia, Pa.  
Drabbe, Cornelle H., Philadelphia, Pa.  
Feinberg, Dorothy M., Boston, Mass.  
Fieser, Rudolph G., New York, N.Y.  
Fletcher, J. Wesley, Bakersfield, Calif.  
Halliday, Nellie, San Francisco, Calif.  
Hanson, Theodore H., Madison, Wis.  
Heck, Joseph G., Philadelphia, Pa.  
Heftmann, Erich, Bethesda, Md.  
Hiller, Alma, Chicago, Ill.  
Jones, Ralph W., San Antonio, Tex.  
Kaplan, Alex, Chicago, Ill.  
Koenig, Dorothy Ann, Chicago, Ill.  
Lasker, Sigmund, New York, N.Y.  
Levin, Marshall, Waban, Mass.  
Martuccio, Frank R., West Los Angeles, Calif.  
Ronis, Harry, Lawrence, N.Y.  
Roseland, Edward E., Dorchester, Mass.  
Sagin, Jerome F., University Park, Md.  
Sklar, Melvin S., East Rockaway, N.Y.  
Soskin, Samuel, Chicago, Ill.  
Spivack, William, Philadelphia, Pa.  
Sunshine, Irving, Kingston, N.Y.  
Tweedy, Wilbur, Hines, Ill.  
Watkins, Hannah L., Chicago, Ill.  
Zymaris, Michael, Brooklyn, N.Y.

## STATE OF ASSOCIATION

(Continued from page 1)

ing our professional status. Questions of legal regulation of clinical laboratories have arisen in California, New Jersey, New York and Tennessee and are bound to arise in other states. Our stand in such questions is linked with that of the national organizations of chemists in general, the American Chemical Society, the American Society of Biological Chemists and the American Institute of Chemists, and also with organizations of more specific character such as the National Association of Clinical Laboratories and its state affiliates. To assure appropriate handling of situations which vary from state to state, our local sections and the Committee on Legislation have conducted negotiations in a most harmonious spirit with groups motivated by parallel interests. At the present juncture the need for improving our legal status in relation to the medical profession is a foremost clearcut objective.

We have emphasized, and shall continue doing so, that the public will best be served when the clinical chemist and his laboratory is accorded equal status with the microbiologist, hematologist and pathologist and their laboratories. Except for university hospitals and other large institutions, the practice of the clinical laboratory sciences is interlocked for historic and practical reasons. While a trend towards a higher degree of specialization is clearly discernible on the horizon, the existing realities must find expression in concrete measures for registration and licensure. Ways and means must be found to assure the independence of clinical chemists who wish to confine their work to clinical chemistry. At the same time, many of us desire to be given the opportunity to practice simultaneously and with the same degree of independence those biological and physical specialties for which they are qualified. We do not desire to supervise work in any activity with which we are less familiar than the supervised personnel; this would only be the mirror image of the present situation against which we are all fighting.

Similar considerations apply to the problems of education. Our Education Committee under the chairmanship of Professor H.C. McDonald has so far concerned itself with the education of clinical chemists, especially on the doctorate level. We are investigating curricula for a Ph.D. in Clinical Chemistry and the creation of Clinical Chemistry Residencies in hospitals. The future will demand that we take a stand on the education of technicians. Here again the main problem is posed by the interlocking of clinical chem-

istry with the other specialties in the majority of laboratories. It is an important task for our Association to organize and to supervise the training of technicians in clinical chemistry and toxicology and to secure the proper co-ordination with the training in such borderline fields as serology, furthermore, to be effectively represented on such boards as are charged with licensure and registration of clinical chemists and clinical laboratories. Finally, we shall have to take a hand in providing reliable and representative samples for the periodic checks of clinical chemistry laboratories, both on a voluntary basis and wherever such checks are demanded by law.

Miriam Reiner, editor-in-chief for the First Volume has enlisted our most expert members for the task of describing and checking 20 fundamental methods in clinical chemistry for the First Annual Volume of "Methods of Clinical Chemistry" and a satisfactory contract has been signed with a prominent scientific publishing house. The sales response to this volume will help in estimating the need for, and potentialities of a periodical publication, possibly with international scope, for clinical chemistry.

In view of the world situation, we have undertaken steps to assure the employment of our members at "highest skill" whenever their services should be required by the Armed Forces.

Upon invitation by Dr. M.D. Kogel, Commissioner of Hospitals of the City of New York, we have formed a special Survey Committee under the chairmanship of Professor Warren M. Sperry and have rendered an extensive report on the condition of clinical chemistry in the twenty-seven hospitals operated in the City. The Commissioner has acknowledged the work of our Committee as follows:

"The Department of Hospitals and indeed the people of our city are indebted to your Survey Committee for its fine work in evaluating existing facilities for clinical chemistry in the hospitals of the Department."

"The recommendations of your Committee will be given serious consideration and I feel confident that out of this work will come an improved clinical chemistry service in our hospitals."

The 75th Anniversary of the A.C.S. in September 1951 will be held in New York City together with the International Congress of Pure and Applied Chemistry and attract chemists from all over the world. We have been invited by the president-elect of the A.C.S., Professor N.H. Furman, to be represented at the Jubilee Celebrations. To bring the importance of Clinical Chemistry at this occasion before the eyes of the public and of

(Continued on page 6)

## NOMINATING COMMITTEE CHOSEN BY ASSOCIATION

The Nominating Committee for 1951, selected by a vote of the membership, consists of: Joseph Benotti, Louis B. Dotti, Max M. Friedman, Samuel Natelson, Miriam Reiner, Harry Sobotka, Warren M. Sperry.

The members elected as alternates are: Oliver G. Gaebler, John G. Reinhold and Albert E. Sobel.

It is expected that this Committee will present to the secretary of the Association by September 15, 1951 a slate for officers and members of the Executive Committee that will serve from July 1, 1952 to June 30, 1953.

## THIRD ANNUAL MEETING TO BE HELD IN BOSTON

Tentative plans for the Third Annual Meeting of the American Association of Clinical Chemists, to be held in Boston during the 119th Meeting of the American Chemical Society, April 2-5, 1951, are being made by Joseph Benotti, president of the Boston Section.

A symposium, being arranged by Bernard L. Oser, will be followed by the annual dinner. An open meeting for AACC members will be held either the day preceeding or the day following.

Details of dates and places of the events will be announced in the March issue of THE CLINICAL CHEMIST and also in the March 5th issue of Chemical and Engineering News.

## OSER INVITED TO PLAN SYMPOSIUM

At the invitation of the Executive Committee of the Association Bernard L. Oser, Ph.D., is organizing a symposium on Newer Analytical Techniques in Clinical Chemistry to be held at the 119th National Meeting of the American Chemical Society in Boston, Mass., April 1-5, 1951, under joint auspices of the American Chemical Society and the Division of Analytical Chemistry. The program will include papers dealing with the application of the flame photometer to the determination of cations in body fluids, the microdetermination of iodine, the use of paper chromatography in clinical chemical investigations, infrared spectroscopy and ultra microchemical analysis.

