

Symposium on disorders of carbohydrate metabolism

Chairman's Introduction by PROFESSOR R. H. S. THOMPSON

Ladies and gentlemen, it is my very pleasant privilege to welcome you here today to this symposium on disorders of carbohydrate metabolism. In particular I want to welcome our invited speakers to whom we shall be listening today and tomorrow, and I would especially like to mention Dr Froesch who has been good enough to come from Zurich to talk to us. We are very glad to have him with us.

This is the fifth of the biennial symposia arranged by the Association of Clinical Pathologists. Drawing up the programme has been in the hands of Dr Vincent Marks, and we are very much indebted to him for the stimulating list of speakers and for the choice of topics that he has been able to place before us. I also want to thank Dr Walters who has been responsible for the hard work connected with the day-to-day arrangements and the negotiations with the Royal Society of Medicine, and we are also of course grateful to the Society for granting us permission to use their rooms.

As you know, the title of this symposium is 'Disorders of carbohydrate metabolism', but I am sure it is the wish of the organizers of the symposium that we should interpret this broadly. We are, after all, long past the days when we can neatly and completely divide metabolic processes and their abnormalities into the separate compartments of carbohydrate, fat, and protein metabolism. The interplay between metabolites participating primarily in the classical synthetic and degradative pathways, the interdependence of tissues on regulated supplies of glucose and fatty acids required for the derivation of energy or for the building up of energy stores, and the mechanisms and control of gluconeogenesis make it inevitable that in a symposium such as this aspects of lipid and protein metabolism shall also be discussed. Indeed the titles of more than one of the papers on the programme clearly indicate that this will be so.

It is therefore a broad field, extending beyond the limits of carbohydrate metabolism as we have been accustomed to think of this, and a rapidly developing field that we have ahead of us at this meeting, and I hope that we shall have a series of lively and uninhibited discussions.

I should add that, as with former ACP symposia, it is intended to publish the communications to be given today and tomorrow as a supplement to the *Journal of Clinical Pathology*.