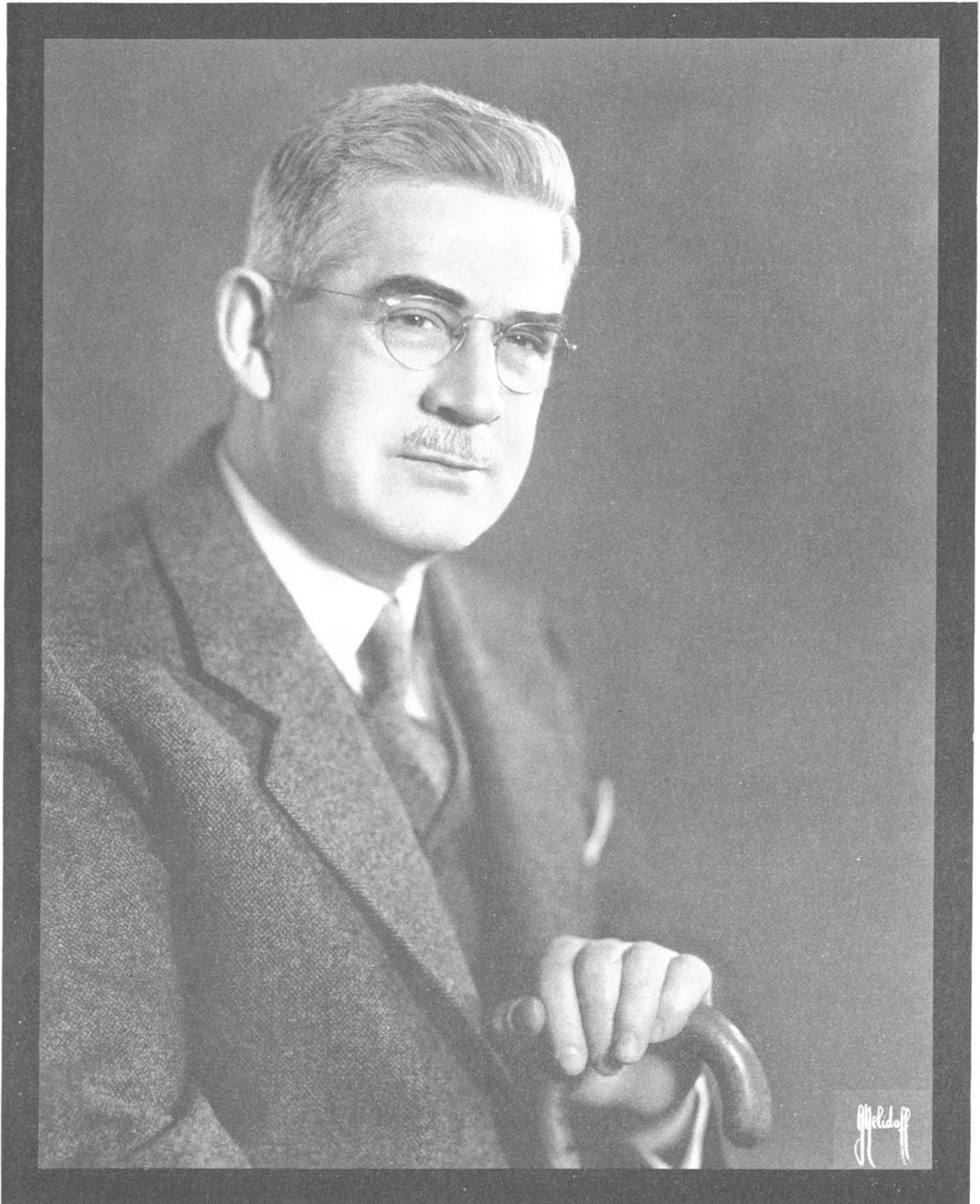


**“In Memoriam”**



**FRANK SMITHIES, M. D., Sc. D., M. A. C. P., 1880—1937**

## Obituary

Dr. Frank Smithies passed away Tuesday morning, February 9, 1937, following a cerebral hemorrhage.

He was born in Elland, England, December 21, 1880, and came to the United States when a very young child and had his elementary school education in Philadelphia and Chicago. He was a graduate of the Calumet High School of Chicago and studied medicine at the University of Michigan from which school he was graduated in 1904. Following this he went abroad and studied at the University of Berlin and Guy's Hospital, London.

After returning to this country he taught at the Rush Medical College, 1904-05, and then at the University of Michigan, 1906-10. He then went to Mayo Clinic, Rochester, Minn., where he worked in the Department of Gastroenterology from 1911-14. After this he returned to Chicago where he practiced Diagnostic Medicine with especial reference to Diseases of the Digestive System. From 1915-25 he was professor of medicine at the University of Illinois. He was Attending Physician, Henrotin Hospital since 1921; Chief of Clinic in Digestive Diseases, Municipal Tuberculosis Sanitarium, Chicago, 1927-30; Consulting Physician of the C. M. and St. P. R. R.

He made many contributions to the medical literature. His papers numbered well over one hundred, including his book on Cancer of the Stomach, published in 1916. He was Editor-in-chief of the American Journal of Digestive Diseases and Nutrition and Associate Editor of the American Journal of Syphilis (St. Louis), Annals of Internal Medicine (Lancaster), and American Journal of Tropical Medicine (Baltimore).

He was past president of the following societies: American College of Physicians, 1927-28; American Gastro-Enterological Association, 1929-30; American Society of Tropical Medicine, 1931-32; American Therapeutic Society, 1932-33.

His hobbies were reading and fishing. He collected many rare books and was particularly interested in books on arctic explorations, of which he had an unusually large collection.

In 1917 he was made a fellow of the American College of Physicians, and elected a member of the council of the College, and later created one of the four *Masters*.

Dr. Smithies did not seek honors, they came to him in recognition of his scientific attainments. He had been for many years a very active member of the American Gastro-Enterological Association bringing to its meetings many excellent papers always presenting clear cut, unequivocal statements which amplified and illuminated the subject. He was a past president of this association.

He understood so well people and motives, which, with his dynamic personality, aided him greatly in the practice of medicine and medical organization. His diligence and vision were a great influence in establishing the American College of Physicians on a permanent foundation.

Our Editor-in-chief, Frank Smithies, now belongs to the past, and as time goes on we will more truly know his distinctly journalistic qualities and his masterful knowledge of gastro-enterology. The latter was encyclopedic in scope and gave to our journal at once a preëminence in its sphere.

Clement R. Jones, Pittsburgh, Pa.

In the death of Dr. Frank Smithies, the medical profession has suffered an unusual loss. As teacher and writer his ability was outstanding. His teaching of gastro-enterology was characterized by a vigorous and original approach to old problems, by clear, masterful thinking, and by lucid expression. These native qualities were made still more effective by a colorful personality. As a speaker

before various national and state medical societies, his services were ever in demand, deeply appreciated, and cheerfully given. A keen, critical sense was one of his outstanding attainments; and he exerted a most stimulating influence upon younger medical men. As Co-Founder and Editor-in-chief of the American Journal of Digestive Diseases and Nutrition, he has made a lasting contribution. Truly, he was one of the outstanding medical figures of this generation.

John G. Mateer, Detroit, Michigan.

In the death of Frank Smithies the medical profession as a whole, and especially those devoted to intensive study of digestive problems, have lost a wise adviser and an acknowledged leader. His contributions have been many and varied in the field of diseases of the stomach and intestine, while his indomitable courage and indefatigable energy unquestionably have been of inestimable value to his many students, medical friends and patients. His loss is a very real one and will be deeply felt by everyone who has come in contact with him personally or who has been helped by his work and character.

Thomas R. Brown, Baltimore, Md.

The untimely demise of Frank Smithies robs science of a scholar of international stature, deprives mankind of a noted benefactor, and afflicts his friends with an irreparable loss.

It was a privilege to have studied under him at the University of Michigan, and a still greater privilege to have been an intimate friend for over thirty years. Friendship for Frank Smithies had a deep-seated foundation of admiration for his intellectual achievements. The list of his literary contributions to medical science, beginning in 1904, has been extensive. He was a leading authority on gastro-intestinal diseases, and his share in the alleviation of human misery shall never be accurately gauged. His tremendous intellectual activity, simultaneous with the exacting duties of a large practice, was the more astounding in that for many years he has been severely handicapped by infirmity and constant suffering. Even while ill, he was ever busy, carrying on many times on nothing but sheer courage. As a friend he was gold thrice refined. His loyalty, thoughtfulness, devotedness, tenderness were the flowerings of a fine spirit. A tribute of love and admiration to Frank Smithies is inadequate without mention of the lovely wife who for twenty-eight years helped and inspired him. To her and his lovely children we bring our sympathy and affection. May the esteem and love paid their husband and father by countless friends and patients help to solace their grief and soften the pain of his absence. Dr. Frank Smithies will live as long as friendship and gratitude blossom on this earth.

Thomas M. Joyce, Portland, Oregon.

In all my relations with him I was deeply impressed with his sincerity, his intellectual integrity and sound, well balanced judgement. Though chiefly concerned in the cultivation and development of his specialty—Gastro-enterology—he had a broad, panoramic view of medicine as attested by his early contributions and researches on goitre and in other fields. His enthusiasm and inexhaustible energy gave him a great capacity for productive laboratory and clinical research which found literary expression in the constant stream of publications that issued from his fertile pen, and in the numerous addresses and lectures which he delivered as a teacher and authority in his special field, much in demand all over the country. His bibliography will suffice to attest to his scholarship, to his

industry and to his devotion to the specialty which he so materially advanced and helped to elevate by his example and spirited leadership.

Rudolph Matas, New Orleans, La.

Medical science has met with a great loss in the passing away of Dr. Smithies and we who knew him personally are filled with sorrow.

Chevalier Jackson, Philadelphia, Pa.

The sudden death of Frank Smithies proved a tremendous shock to his French Colleagues, for we did not know of his illness, so unflinching had been his literary and scientific activities during the past months. Devotion of mind and heart to scientific advancement, industry, intellectual probity, executive power, yearning for scientific truth; his efforts to promote a better *entente cordiale* among physicians of all nations, and particularly between Americans and Frenchmen—these qualities and activities mark him out, in my opinion, as a truly great American physician.

As a student in 1921, and during subsequent clinical tours of England, France and Germany, Smithies' works on cancer, ulcer and nutrition are among the accepted things our masters quoted and desired us to translate. As secretary to Major-General Gouachon, and while on a tour of Hospital Investigation, I was thrown with Frank Smithies daily during a week or more in Chicago, and had the opportunity of gaining his ideas on medical interchanges with Europe. These ideas proved of value when I returned to France. His work as American representative of the "Association for Developing Medical Relations between American and French Physicians," has already borne excellent fruit. He saw the desirability of a closer relationship between the English and French medical institutions in Montreal. We in Quebec Province salute the Departed as a great man, who understood our problems and will always remember his brilliance, his sense of humor and his excellent judgment.

Jean LeSage, Montreal, Canada.

Frank Smithies possessed a dynamic personality; he could never be neutral; nor could he be indifferent; he carried his sovereignty beneath his own hat; his was a virile personality. It is interesting to note that his enthusiasms were always of a constructive trend; his ambition was to build; he spent his energy in constructive activities; he thrived in an atmosphere of flux, but always creative; he revealed in growth, whether orderly or riotous. Essentially an extrovert, yet he was of studious habit; an accomplished salesman, yet, withal of scientific bent; conscious of the power of propaganda, yet he worshipped in the Temple of Fact; a strange mixture of the pedantic and pragmatic. His most outstanding work, aside from making his mind a well-stocked granary, was the American College of Physicians. That organization is peculiarly the result of his labor; he kept it alive in spite of criticism and opposition that was, in essence, personal; he nursed it as a fledgling through the period of the World War; while it did not remarkably grow numerically under his guidance, it did acquire a hardihood that defied the ailments of childhood and permitted it to achieve maturity under the guidance of Stengel. As one who revolted under his leadership it affords an undisguised satisfaction to accord, thus, to Frank Smithies the credit for making an organization place for internal medicine. A brave heart, an unflinching spirit, an able leader and a great physician is gone. He had little peace in life; may he have it in abundance in death.

Virgil E. Simpson, Louisville, Ky.

It is with a sense of personal loss as well as of a distinct loss to Dr. Frank Smithies' many and varied interests in medicine that I learn of his death.

I came to know Dr. Smithies through several avenues. He was one of the profession's indefatigable workers, a

man of great energy and ambition, an organizer of wide interests, a leader in progressive and aggressive medicine, a physician of forward vision and keen ability. His death will be felt beyond the immediate interests of our Journal. His energy will not be commonly found among us.

Kenneth M. Lynch, Charleston, S. C.

To me one of the most characteristic traits of Dr. Smithies was his intense, and still lovable, loyalty to those whom he looked upon as his friends. An absence of years made no difference with him. One picked up the thread of his relationship with Dr. Smithies where it had been interrupted as though it had never been severed at all, without any feeling on either's part of change incident to time and absence. Such a trait is born in a man; it can neither be developed nor submerged. And fortunate is he who possesses it, for it compels in return spontaneous loyalty on the part of others. In so intense, so pioneering a life, as Dr. Smithies lived, it doubtless smoothed out many trials and adversities that necessarily came to him. In his passing he has left his imprint on American Medicine to a degree a few only have equaled.

Noble Wiley Jones, Portland, Oregon.

The passing of Frank Smithies has left a gaping void in American medicine. The loss that scores of patients of his have sustained is small by comparison to that which we have sustained. He was the inspirational genius of "our Journal." It was only through his dynamic leadership that the unity of effort was achieved. His was the gift of inspiring the individual to greater efforts and of molding groups of soloists into an harmonious ensemble.

The Leader is gone but that indomitable spirit will always remain with us and we will fulfill our obligation to the great purposes of his life—and carry on.

Martin G. Vorhaus, New York, N. Y.

American Medicine has sustained a distinct loss in the passing of Frank Smithies. An enthusiastic, unbiased investigator, a thorough, kindly teacher, a clinician of the first rank, his publications were known and quoted throughout the world of medicine, his methods of diagnosis and treatment were recommended in leading text-books. As co-founder and Editor-in-chief of the American Journal of Digestive Diseases and Nutrition he made a monument for himself which, with the impetus given by his three years of indefatigable labor, should remain a permanent memorial. Organized medicine long since recognized the worth of this remarkable man and heaped upon him, in his all-too-brief career, honors which but few great men have attained in a much longer lifetime. He enjoyed a full life, worshiped by his family, loved by his many friends, and his passing leaves a void which will be difficult to fill.

A. R. Andresen, Brooklyn, N. Y.

The name of Dr. Frank Smithies was known wherever scientific medicine was practiced. Dr. Smithies, throughout his lifetime, was a devout and indefatigable worker for medical progress. His deep interest in the gastrointestinal phase of medicine has been responsible directly or indirectly for many advancements in this field of work. A measuring stick of the scope of Dr. Smithies' interests, his versatility, and his achievements may be seen in his work as Editor-in-chief of the American Journal of Digestive Diseases and Nutrition. A personal friend, a friend of medicine, and an outstanding figure in the medical profession has been removed by the death of Dr. Smithies.

Francis D. Murphy, Milwaukee, Wis.

Dr. Frank Smithies always impressed me as an outstanding forceful personality in the medical world. His numerous and valuable contributions to the literature were lucid and logical and were supported by a wealth of clinical experience. He demonstrated his genius as a leader and organizer in several medical associations and especi-

ally as Editor of the American Journal of Digestive Diseases and Nutrition. His untimely passing leaves a void that will be difficult to fill.

Frank C. Yeomans, New York City.

It was with deepest regret that I learned of the death of Doctor Smithies. I know none of us can replace the tremendous energizing stimulus and intelligence he exerted over the activities of the medical profession, especially our gastro-enterological group and the Journal.

A. H. Aaron, Buffalo, N. Y.

I was shocked to learn of the untimely death of Doctor Smithies. I have known him for years as a courageous and indomitable fighter for those principles he regarded as right. Although never anxious for indiscriminate friendships, Frank Smithies had an unusual capacity for personal loyalty.

Curtice Rosser, Dallas, Texas.

Genial, brilliant and forceful Frank Smithies has been one of the outstanding figures in American gastro-enterology for the past two or three decades. He, perhaps, has done more to advance the scientific study of gastro-enterology than any of our confreres. His contributions to the literature on gastro-enterology have been valuable and stimulating to others of us engaged in the study and treatment of abdominal diseases. Perhaps the crowning piece of constructive work in Frank Smithies' career was his cooperation in the upbuilding of a high class journal devoted entirely to digestive diseases and nutrition. This publication will be continued and will receive the hearty support of every man interested in internal diseases.

Seale Harris, Birmingham, Alabama.

I was shocked to hear the news of the death of Doctor Smithies. He was one of the most dynamic and energetic men of my acquaintance. His passing is a loss of the first magnitude to the cause of scientific gastro-enterology in America. All of us who knew him marvelled at the amount of productive work he has been able to turn out year after year. He was always a courageous leader, a sincere critic and an accomplished clinician. His editorial work on the American Journal of Digestive Diseases and Nutrition was his last major accomplishment and it will continue to be a monument to his memory and an evidence of his ability.

H. L. Bockus, Philadelphia, Pa.

I was closely associated with Doctor Smithies in gastro-enterologic work here in the Mayo Clinic a number of years ago. He always impressed me with his great native ability, industry, enthusiasm and studiousness. In addition to his scientific qualifications and achievements, his interests were wide. He was a model husband and a devoted father, and his genial personality endeared him to his friends. He was a prolific writer and his achievements in the field of science were enviable. These accomplishments, in addition to the fact that he was one of the founders of the American College of Physicians, and Editor of the American Journal of Digestive Diseases and Nutrition, which he also helped to found, should assure him a permanent place in American Medicine.

Geo. B. Eusterman, Rochester, Minn.

I was indeed shocked and grieved to hear of the death of Doctor Smithies. My contact with him dated back to 1917 when I was at the University of Illinois, College of Medicine. There, both as a student and a member of the faculty, I came in rather intimate contact with Dr. Smithies. In our class, at least, he was considered one of the finest teachers of medicine we had and we all looked forward to his classes and particularly to his clinics. He always treated his students as colleagues and I never saw him show anything but the kindest interest in their welfare. His lectures were beautifully organized and he made a profound impression on his students. To those of us

who knew him personally his loss is great and we will remember him with affection.

T. B. Magath, Rochester, Minn.

The entire medical profession, and particularly those of us who have known him intimately and followed his work in recent years, grieves at the sudden and untimely death of Dr. Frank Smithies. He represents one of the figures making for real progress in medicine. His boundless energy and wealth of ideas stimulated many of his co-workers, professional friends and enemies, to continued improvement of methods used in professional practice and new fact finding. Frank Smithies had a personality which stimulated all who came in contact with it. He was instrumental in starting many medical advances which will live as monuments. Perhaps some of the most outstanding were his activity in the inaugurating of the American College of Physicians and his editorial activities for the American Journal of Digestive Diseases and Nutrition. We shall all suffer by his departure.

J. A. Barga, Rochester, Minn.

I have been closely connected with the founding and subsequent development of the American College of Physicians as Regent, Governor and Secretary-General, and during a good part of that extended period I was in constant contact with Dr. Smithies. Those of us who had the good fortune to be in touch with College affairs at that time know full well that it was he, almost single handed, who saved it from disaster and set it upon the road to a highly successful and useful career.

Dr. Smithies for several years devoted more of his time, each day, to College affairs than to his private practice. More than this he spent for the College generously of his own money, at a time when the finances were in a precarious state. Of these personal expenditures he kept no account and for them he was never reimbursed.

Second only to his immediate family was the American College of Physicians, his chief concern in his daily life. The American College of Physicians owes Frank Smithies an everlasting debt of gratitude.

Wm. Gerry Morgan, Washington, D. C.

I have learned with profound sorrow of the death of Dr. Frank Smithies, an indefatigable worker, an outstanding clinician, a discriminating specialist, a voracious reader, a prolific writer, an efficient editor, a loyal friend, who will be sorely missed in the various fields of activities by the many with whom he came in contact. His death represents a severe loss to the profession which he adorned.

Irvin Abell, Louisville, Ky.

While I knew that Dr. Smithies had not been well for some time, I was terribly shocked to hear of his sudden passing away. Needless to say, I do not have to tell you what a tremendous loss our Association suffers and how grieved his very many friends both in the Association and at large will be on learning of his death. He was certainly a splendid fellow and always very frank. I had become very fond of him and admired him more and more for his tireless energy and enthusiasm under the load of the physical handicap that he bore so well.

Russell S. Boles, Philadelphia, Pa.

I was indeed shocked to learn of Dr. Smithies' death, because the last time I saw him he was so perfectly well, and it seems impossible that he is dead. The Journal of Digestive Diseases and Nutrition will undoubtedly suffer a great deal by his loss. I have known Dr. Smithies for the past twenty years, first learning to know him while I was an extern at the Augustana Hospital in Chicago. I have never known a man who deserves more credit to have accomplished the things he has in spite of his infirmity. He was strictly honest, thoroughly reliable, and a great friend of the young man. Even as a young extern

I felt that I could always approach Dr. Smithies at any time for his counsel. His ability to study carefully and evaluate a particular case was surpassed by none, and in the treatment of a case he was always careful to see that the younger men with him got to examine a patient and profit by his experience.

Alton Ochsner, New Orleans, La.

It was with great surprise and sorrow that I noted the passing of Dr. Frank Smithies on February 9, 1937. I have been personally acquainted with Dr. Smithies for many years and always regarded him as one of my best friends. During this time, Dr. Smithies has been one of the foremost clinicians in the United States and contributed much to our knowledge of clinical medicine. It is with a sense of distinct personal loss that I am writing this, for, through all the years, our association was most pleasant. Aside from his professional standing and ability, Dr. Smithies' kind heart endeared him to all of his associates and friends.

Charles F. Craig, New Orleans, La.

Frank Smithies stood for energy, enterprise and hard work. At the meetings of the American Gastro-Enterological Association we looked to him for keen and critical discussion of any paper, and, at times, with his "satirical diatribes," as Dr. Pilcher called them, and his profound knowledge of the subject, he tread heavily on the toes of some of the contributors. But he wanted the truth brought out and his criticisms were not personal. In the reorganization of this Association he was an important instrument. During my presidency he was secretary, and though confined to the hospital with a long siege of illness, carried on the needed activities and arranged a program of a quality that up to that time had not been approached. His artistic sense showed in his hobby for old ship models. As Editor of the Journal he consulted all of us on the Editorial Board, and repeatedly sought advice and suggestions from one or the other.

Walter A. Bastedo, New York City.

The passing of Doctor Frank Smithies is a tremendous loss to American medicine. The public has lost one of the leading physicians in this country, and the profession has lost a dynamic personality, a powerful leader and a great teacher.

E. Perry McCullagh, Cleveland, Ohio.

It is with a feeling of personal loss that I learn of the death of Dr. Frank Smithies. An acquaintance which began thirty years ago when Dr. Smithies and I were both living in Ann Arbor has become more intimate within the last few years, since the organization of the American Journal of Digestive Diseases and Nutrition, and has enabled me to see and admire the surprising energy which Dr. Smithies has put into all of his medical work. That others have been impressed by his ability and by this same driving energy is amply demonstrated in the honors which have come to him which have included the Presidency of the American Therapeutic Society, of The American Society of Tropical Medicine, of The American College of Physicians, The American Gastro-enterological Association, assignments of honor as well as responsibility on the Scientific Assembly of the American Medical Association, and the Ribbon of the Legion of Honor of France. Gastro-enterology, and medicine as a whole, have lost a man of achievement.

Warren T. Vaughan, Richmond, Virginia.

America has indeed lost one of its distinguished physicians and experimental medicine one of its most enthusiastic advocates. Dr. Smithies had many admirable qualities but in my estimation one of the most outstanding was his unflinching interest in and courtesy toward young men who showed promise of research ability. He was always interested in people who did things and as his whole life

was one of accomplishment he indeed served as an inspiration to those who are trying to do worth while things.

Edward J. Van Liere, Morgantown, W. Va.

Ever since my association with the American Journal of Digestive Diseases and Nutrition, I have been impressed by Dr. Smithies' high sense of duty to his position as Editor. He was most energetic in fulfilling his duties as Editor-in-chief and in my correspondence with him, his frankness and earnestness made a great impression.

Howard F. Root, Boston, Mass.

It was with the utmost sorrow that I learned of the sudden death of Frank Smithies. From the time of my first acquaintance with him at the University of Michigan, his life, struggles and accomplishments have always been an incentive to more appreciation and effort on my part. We shall miss his judgment at our councils, his constructive criticisms, his cordiality and his virile will to progress. I wish there could be more like him to whom we might look for advice and stimulation in this chaotic world in which we live.

James T. Pilcher, Brooklyn, N. Y.

In the death of Doctor Frank Smithies, American medicine has lost one of its outstanding personalities. Physically handicapped but mentally alert, Doctor Smithies was a great organizer, a thoroughly trained internist, an excellent writer and a true friend. I am sure that I voice the sentiments of all those interested in the advancement of knowledge pertaining to the gastro-intestinal tract when I say that we have lost a champion who will not be easily replaced.

Porter P. Vinson, Richmond, Va.

The standing and ability of Dr. Frank Smithies in the medical profession are widely known and appreciated and his death constitutes an almost irreparable loss not only to the clientele whom he served but also to those who have long profited by his written communications on medical topics. No others, however, will feel his loss so keenly as his host of friends who knew and loved his personality. Something is gone out of their lives that will not soon be replaced.

William Fitch Cheney, San Francisco.

Frank Smithies has been one of the leading men in digestive diseases for more than a generation. He was a tireless worker, a great organizer, and ever since his early days at the Mayo Clinic has stimulated and carried on an immense amount of valuable clinical research. His genial personality, native talent, and immense experience won him a host of friends all over the country and made him a leading consultant in his special field. This Journal owes its steady progress and leading position largely to his devotion and tireless efforts as Editor-in-chief. His heroic attitude in the face of long disability and finally of serious illness has been an inspiration to us all. He will long be remembered not only for his scientific skill and vast clinical experience, but for his great courage and kindness of heart.

Franklin W. White, Boston, Mass.

Many years ago when I became a member of the American Gastro-Enterological Association, I had the good fortune to meet Dr. Frank Smithies. He impressed me as a man of high, intellectual attainments, deeply interested in his work. While fearlessly critical he was always fair and just. Once you had obtained his support, he was unflinching in his interest and loyalty. We all know how devoted he was to his work with the American Journal of Digestive Diseases and Nutrition.

He will be sadly missed; and will always remain in our memory as a distinguished figure among his colleagues.

Jerome M. Lynch, New York, N. Y.

Life passes, we go, others come and fill the ranks. The filling of the ranks, however, is not a mere automatic, mechanical procedure. There are foot-prints left behind which are often ineradicable and which point the way to the newcomers. It is these footprints which lead to a certain goal; this is all that we can leave behind, footprints pointing the way. In the case of Dr. Smithies, our beloved friend, there were left clear footprints indeed. His inexhaustible energy, his jovial nature, his inspiration to others are the things which will always stand out in the minds of those of us who had the privilege to know him. May his foot-steps ever stand out and remind us to follow the way which he all through his energetic life has pointed out.

Henry J. John, Cleveland, Ohio.

The shock occasioned by Dr. Smithies sudden passing is too great for us to properly evaluate his contribution to medicine.

As a young man, he said, "You fellows can play golf and have other hobbies, but mine is writing."

His mind was essentially creative in character. He sat at his desk and planned the organization of the American College of Physicians and carried it through almost single handed. Our Journal is in no small part a creation of his genius, and we link its success with his untiring energy and enthusiasm. It is a fitting monument to his memory.

Horace W. Soper, St. Louis, Mo.

In the death of Frank Smithies, Gastro-enterology has lost one of its valuable and enthusiastic disciples. He was a clinician who thoroughly understood the fundamental science of his art. His letters and words of encouragement have stimulated numerous young investigators in the science of digestion. He worked unceasingly for the advancement of his specialty in our country. He supported and originated many worthwhile efforts to promulgate the better fortunes of his chosen field, with the advancement of which his name is inextricably interwoven. To him the laurels of accomplishment are due and those who know his good works mourn his passing.

A. C. Ivy, Chicago, Ill.

I knew our late lamented Dr. Frank Smithies for many years, and held him in affectionate regard.

His alert mind and keen intellect were always felt and appreciated. He had an outstanding capacity for work and statistical classification. His writings were trenchant, and full of snap and vigor.

As a man, he displayed a charming personality and a most entertaining contact. As a physician, he showed deep knowledge of human nature and of disease. His mind covered with celerity the many angles of clinical studies of the sick. He showed wisdom and resourcefulness in diagnosis and therapy. As a companion, he was witty, affable, and humorous. As a friend, he was affectionate, helpful and unselfish.

He will be greatly missed by members of the medical profession, and his memory will have a lasting place among them.

Allen A. Jones, Buffalo, N. Y.

It has been my privilege to have known Frank Smithies for a quarter of a century, at first merely as a colleague and subsequently as a greatly esteemed friend. I find myself—like many others—mourning his death in a very personal sense. Smithies possessed a strong personality, a determined will and a tireless energy that was all the more remarkable because of physical handicaps. As is common to many strong characters Smithies made some enemies and his convictions sired many critics. I have come to realize, as the years have passed, that most of his critics were over-captious and some of his enemies were far lesser men—even as I—if they ultimately failed to find the amazing good in the man they one time disliked.

As a well rounded clinician and particularly in regard

to his special interest in gastro-enterology, as a sub-division of internal medicine, Dr. Smithies climbed well up the ladder and would have gone even further had his Kismet allowed him larger opportunities to develop his natural skill in clinical research.

I keenly recall my first impression of the man some twenty-five years ago when he rose as a floor discussor of a symposium on some gastro-intestinal topic at a meeting of The American Medical Association. The principal speakers were then men of national reputation and Smithies was relatively unknown. Always an able speaker on his feet, and on this occasion reinforced by data of several hundred cases of the topic under discussion, his remarks were direct and to the point and created disquietude on the part of the symposium principals in their efforts to suitable reply. On returning to his chair—next to mine—he handed me the ledger containing the data set down in his meticulously careful way—the data running into several hundred thousand items which he had abstracted and condensed to a ten minute time limit. This was my first impression of Frank Smithies and it gave a significant insight into the painstaking detail-collecting metier that was characteristic of him.

He was literally an indefatigable worker and I believe an honest searcher after the medical truth. I imagine that this may explain his penchant as a "debunker." Smithies had faults—who has not—that created misunderstanding and made his critics race to counter attack. In some respects he was intolerant of the views of others but tempered by a proper and wholesome intolerance of sloppily done investigative work by which the investigator arrived at premature or unsound conclusions.

Dr. Smithies' personal contributions to medicine, and to gastro-intestinal medicine in particular were too numerous to mention—most of them were timely as regards topics of the period, some could be appraised as ahead of his day and a few were so brilliant in their conception that they may prove to be contributions of lasting value to medicine. Among the most interesting were his views regarding the etiology and the life history of peptic ulcer, a subject which was always one of his "pets."

As an organizer and executive leader he was most able. The record of his career as set out in the editorial by Dr. Clement R. Jones amply attests this ability. His leadership—together with others—in rescuing the American College of Physicians when it was sinking into merited oblivion and helping to build it up to its greatly improved present position and a secure future, will remain as a monument to his having lived. Likewise, his efforts regarding the welfare and progress of the American Gastro-Enterological Association and particularly his Editorship of the American Journal of Digestive Diseases and Nutrition, under handicaps physically and economically that would have appalled a less courageous man, can be counted as real achievements.

He was the kind of man who could look adversity in the face and keep on smiling and it can truly be said that he died with his boots on. Such men are not easily missed or their places readily filled.

B. B. Vincent Lyon, Philadelphia, Pa.

In the passing of Dr. Frank Smithies the profession has lost an unusually able clinician and the community is deprived of a man of many parts, a skilled administrator and organizer, and this Journal has lost the distinctive genius of a devoted Editor-in-Chief.

Dr. Smithies will be missed by very many friends for he had a genius of attracting to himself loyal and devoted adherents to whatever cause he was interested in.

C. T. Martin, Montreal, Can.

Doctor Frank Smithies was one of the pioneers in this country in developing an interest in tropical medicine and human parasitology. At a time when few practitioners of medicine were familiar with parasitic diseases, Doctor

Smithies called attention to their importance and applied modern methods of diagnosis and treatment in his practice. For many years he took an active interest in the American Society of Tropical Medicine and was elected president in 1931. He also contributed generously to the support of the Society by special donations. As the finest type of gentleman and as a genial, big-hearted friend Doctor Smithies will always have an honored place in the memory of his colleagues.

Henry E. Meleney, Nashville, Tenn.

The death of Dr. Frank Smithies has removed from American gastro-enterology one of the most inspired and inspiring figures. The presence of Doctor Smithies at a medical meeting was always an insurance that there would be a complete discussion of all correlated work, Doctor Smithies' knowledge of medical literature being most extensive, and also that no unsound doctrine would escape keen and complete analysis.

He was wont to say that his physical handicap gave him greater opportunity and desire to study, and this fact redounded to the advantage of all who had professional and social contact with him.

The American Journal of Digestive Diseases and Nutrition, his long cherished dream, is now a most fitting memorial to him, and no greater future for the Journal can be desired than that the spirit of Doctor Smithies live on for many years in its pages.

Sara M. Jordan, Boston, Mass.

The great loss sustained in the sudden passing of Dr. Frank Smithies will be sorely felt both by clinicians, particularly the gastro-enterologists, and by experimental investigators. Dr. Smithies' outlook on medicine was broad; he fully realized the important part which the fundamental sciences play in the progress of medicine and he kept in permanent touch with them, as witness the so-called "Smithies gastric ulcer diet," based on physiological principles. He himself called this the "physiological rest method" (cf. *Amer. Jour. Med. Sci.*, 153, p. 547, 1917) and denounced the method of alkali therapy long before any experimental evidence was obtained that alkali stimulates gastric secretion. That Dr. Smithies was a "physiologically minded" clinician was clear from the general editorial policy pursued by him as Editor-in-chief of the *American Journal of Digestive Diseases and Nutrition*. His aim was to combine within one journal all that was theoretically or practically important in the field of gastro-enterology. Once when submitting to him a purely physiological article, I expressed the doubt that perhaps such an article would be unsuitable for a medical publication. He replied as follows (on 3rd Dec., 1934): "I, personally, and everybody with whom I have talked, appreciate your sending original articles to this publication. I know that a lot of them could have been printed in other journals but then the practitioner probably would not have read them. As a sort of slogan for our publication we have adopted in our propaganda announcements the phrase 'The Magazine Where Investigators And Practitioners Meet.' This slogan expresses exactly what I had in mind when this Journal was started. . ."

Therefore by the death of Dr. Smithies not only is the medical profession deprived of one of its most prominent members, but the theoretical sciences have lost a friend who appreciated their importance and recognized their true value in relation to practical medicine.

B. P. Babkin, Montreal, Canada.

I met Dr. Frank Smithies for the first time at the Mayo Clinic when attending the meeting of the American College of Physicians, in 1922. I took a great liking to this perfect gentleman who was then Secretary-General to the College, and I admired very much his courtesy.

I wrote him on several occasions, since 1931 particularly, after a trip to Paris, with the purpose of organizing an-

nual English clinical courses in the French Hospitals, which were to be given under the auspices of l' "Association pour le Développement des Relations Médicales entre la France et les Pays Amis" (A.D.R.M.) founded by Professor Henry Hartmann, and president ever since by this well-known Parisian surgeon.

On my return to Montreal I thought that Dr. Smithies was one of the many American physicians who could tell me whether such a similar organization would meet general approval in the United States. Dr. Smithies' answer contained such appropriate advices on the matter that I sent copies of his letter to Professors H. Hartmann, E. Sergent, G. Roussy and some other of my friends members of l'A.D.R.M. in Paris. All eminent medical authorities of Paris and France got acquainted since with Dr. Frank Smithies whom they admired for his "Franc parler" and generous contribution towards the English clinical lectures in Paris. I personally know that Dr. Smithies has been constantly in correspondence with his French confrères up to his death.

I had, about that time, founded in Montreal the Canadian section of l'A.D.R.M. with the cooperation of Dean A. Primrose of Toronto University, C. F. Martin, Dean of McGill University, Louis de Lotbinière-Harwood, Dean of l'Université de Montréal, A. Rousseau, Dean of Laval University, Quebec, and many other colleagues. The following year Dr. Smithies organized the American section of l'A.D.R.M. with the collaboration of Drs. James R. Arneil, Lewellyn F. Barker, Harlow Brooks, George Crile, Maj. Gen. Hugh Cumming, A. U. Desjardins, George Dock, Reginald Fitz, Maj. Gen. M. W. Ireland, N. W. Jones, W. McKim Marriott, Martin E. Rehfuss, William J. Mayo, J. H. Musser, Carl V. Weller and others.

It was through the requests of Professors H. Hartmann, E. Sergent, G. Roussy, E. Rist and other members of l'A.D.R.M. in Paris, jointly with the French Council in Chicago, that *la République Française* bestowed on Dr. Smithies the decoration of Chevalier de la Légion d'Honneur. I personally know that he heartily appreciated this delicate attention of his Parisian friends and that he was proud of the little red ribbon he constantly wore.

I must say that it was in 1933 that I had the second opportunity to meet Dr. Frank Smithies when he came to Montreal to attend the first Canadian session of the American College of Physicians. I hope every Fellow of the College who was present still believes it was a particularly interesting meeting, because they had the opportunity to see in our City two medical schools: one of McGill University and the other of l'Université de Montréal, having both their personality and traditions. McGill has always been known as a prototype of the English Universities, while l'Université de Montréal takes its own inspiration in its French ascendants, the Universities of France. Montreal is a living example of the "good entente" existing between its citizens of French and English origins. Dr. Smithies and his colleagues were then interested in both medical schools and their respective teaching hospitals where they attended clinics during this memorable meeting of the College.

Dr. Smithies and many other Fellows were welcomed in the Hotel-Dieu, Notre Dame, Ste-Justine and other French speaking hospitals where they delivered special clinics. I remember how pleased Dr. Smithies was after meeting Prof. Pierre Masson, previously of Strasbourg University, France, in his laboratory where he had with him a long talk on the pathology of cancer of the stomach. Prof. Pierre Masson was also very much interested with Dr. Smithies' remarks on pathology.

It was through Dr. Smithies together with Dean C. F. Martin and Prof. J. C. Meakins of McGill, that the College invited Prof. E. Rist, the well known specialist on tuberculosis, of Paris, to attend this Canadian meeting of the College. I am sure all the members of the American College of Physicians who were then in Montreal

remember the great success of Prof. Rist in his clinical lectures at Notre-Dame Hospital and at the general meetings at the Windsor Hotel, specially on account of his clinical science and his perfect knowledge of the English language.

It was my privilege on the same occasion, as President of the Canadian section of l'A.D.R.M. to entertain at a luncheon, at Le Cercle Universitaire, in honor of Dr. Frank Smithies, President of the American section of l'A.D.R.M., and Prof. E. Rist, member and delegate of l'A.D.R.M. in Paris. Some of the most prominent members of the American College of Physicians and representatives of McGill and l'Université de Montréal, as well as the French Consul in Montreal, and two Hon. Ministers of the Quebec Government were present.

The medical profession of the United States has suffered a great loss by the premature death of one of its most representative members. Dr. Smithies' numerous admirers in Paris have, I am sure, learned with deep sorrow of the sudden departure of their grand American friend and colleague.

Dr. Smithies' close friends and collaborators will appreciate his numerous contributions to medicine and his everlasting enthusiasm in the organization of the American College of Physicians and his work on the "American Journal of Digestive Diseases and Nutrition" in which he was so kind to associate some of his French Canadian friends of Montreal.

I am very proud to have been called upon to say a few words on this remarkable physician who will remain as a living example of an indefatigable worker, an honest man and a most devoted friend. It is on the tomb stone of such men that one may engrave: "HIC JACET VIR PROBUS."

J. E. Dubé, Chevalier de la Légion d'Honneur,  
Montreal, Canada.

After I came into this country two and one-half years ago, I met Doctor Smithies on several occasions, none of these meetings lasting less than two hours, and I always left the room with a strange feeling of surprise and admiration. I felt his appreciation of "humanistic education" (I think this is an adequate translation of the German "Humanistische Bildung"), which evidently he had had in largest extent. I felt his ability to follow and to appreciate new ideas. I have considered him as one of the most perfect gentlemen I ever met. I always left him not only encouraged, but enthusiastic, full of confidence in the future of my own ideas, because he seemed to share them. That he was able to show me this confidence, proves that he not only was a gentleman but that he also was full of that natural friendliness which makes the great physician, which is inborn and can never be acquired. How will it be possible to replace him as Editor-in-chief of the American Journal of Digestive Diseases and Nutrition which was raised in two years to the leading periodical of its kind in the international scientific world? His

successor will have a hard task; but we, his collaborators, should promise whoever he may be, to support him by all means to honor the memory and the work of unforgettable Dr. Frank Smithies.

Rudolf Schindler, Chicago, Illinois.

My intimate acquaintance with the late Frank Smithies began in the summer of 1933, when I called at his office for an informal chat and discussion of matters gastroenterological. I had known him professionally for a number of years and we had a few medical cases in common. I had always been impressed with the thoroughness of his clinical work. He had a flare for sizing up the psychological as well as the physical status of his patient. His patients were bound to him always by so strong a bond of confidence, that it was nearly impossible for another physician to fill his place even temporarily. He exacted and obtained from most of his patients a degree of regimentation, where it was necessary, such as I had never before seen or believed possible. He devoted a good deal of time to what at first often seemed insignificant phases of the illness. He had a distinct clinical instinct for diagnosis and used X-ray and other laboratory aids as mere secondary guides. His letters to physicians reporting on referred cases were exhaustive, and his instructions to patients were extremely detailed.

I called on him in August, 1933, to ask his opinion as to the advisability of starting a Journal in gastroenterology and explained to him that this idea had been in my mind for a number of years. He gave me a quizzical, penetrating glance and asked, "why in h--- should you want to do that?" I confessed that my motives were as strong as they may have appeared ill-timed. The depression was then obtrusively present. I assured him, however, that I could interest publishers, and this fact obviously surprised him. Immediately, he decided to take the matter seriously, and it was not more than two weeks before he had assembled the Editorial Council, while I in the mean time made financial and printing arrangements.

During the four years that have passed, we worked in close harmony. Dr. Smithies was self-sacrificing in his work. Last summer, while ill and unable to work, he maintained touch with my office at all times. He even assumed the work of a technical editor, believing that his own personal touch was essential to the undertaking.

It is unanimously admitted today that Frank Smithies, as Editor-in-chief of this Journal, did an excellent piece of pioneering work. He did it thoroughly, with the vigor for which he is famous and he did it cheerfully and consistently. If he had strong dislikes, he also possessed very unusual fidelity to his accepted friends. In his contacts, it may be said, that he left no one cold; for his personality was an unusual blending of prejudice and loyalty. Above all, he was one of those rare men, whose unquenchable enthusiasm burned like a light, emphasizing its brilliance by its own untimely extinction.

Beaumont S. Cornell, Fort Wayne, Ind.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT

Soon after the death of Dr. Frank Smithies, Editor-in-Chief of this Journal, a slightly different plan of editorial management was decided upon. Following the practice of a number of leading medical journals in America, the position of Editor-in-Chief was abolished and responsibility placed upon a group of men comprising an Editorial Board. The members so far appointed are: Walter C. Alvarez, Rochester, Minnesota; Burrill B. Crohn, New York, N. Y.; Henry L. Bockus, Philadelphia, Pa., and Sara M. Jordan, Boston, Mass. The position of Supervising Editor is still retained by the writer. All manuscripts submit-

ted for publication should be mailed to Dr. Cornell at 116 East Berry Street, Fort Wayne, Indiana. They will be sent at once for review, suggestion, criticism, and acceptance or rejection to appropriate members of the Board and Council. A technical editor will be appointed for such revision of articles as is considered necessary. It is felt that this method of editorial management is appropriate for this particular journal. To readers we may give assurance of a steady inflow of excellent contributions from many sources. To authors, we may state that we are still in the desirable position of offering quick publication. Furthermore, it is felt that suitable and adequate adjustment



has been made; and that the Journal, ably piloted by Frank Smithies through its early years, will continue to progress under the expert guidance of the Board and Council.

Beaumont S. Cornell, Fort Wayne, Ind.

Early in February, Dr. Henry J. John of Cleveland, Ohio, was given the Charles Eisenman Award of the Jewish Welfare Federation for his work in creating and maintaining Camp Ho-Mita-Koda for diabetic children. This work of Dr. John's for youthful dia-

betics has deservedly received wide recognition for a number of years. He has diverted the \$750, which accompanies the award, to the work of the Camp.

#### NOTICE

The Annual Meeting of the American Gastro-Enterological Association will be held at the Hotel Claridge, Atlantic City, N. J., on Monday and Tuesday, June 7th and 8th, 1937. Please make hotel reservations at once.

## Book Reviews

*Physiological Chemistry.* By J. F. McClendon and C. J. V. Pettibone, sixth edition, C. V. Mosby Co., St. Louis, 1936. 451 pages, 34 illustrations.

THE first section of this text, amounting to 322 pages, is devoted to exposition of the subject matter of physiological chemistry; the remainder (Section II) contains instructions for laboratory exercises. This is the first revision since 1931, the book having been issued originally in 1917. Except for certain subjects, the exposition is elementary and in many respects incomplete. Although the liver is the center of many types of intermediary metabolism with which physiological chemistry is concerned and which is important for the medical student and physician to know, the word "liver" is not mentioned in the index.

In these days of rapidly expanding knowledge in the fields of physiology and biochemistry, the problem of selection of subject matter to be presented to medical students in these subjects is a serious one. In the case of this book it is believed that the authors err in presenting too little of the subject matter of biochemistry, in view of the fact that most students now admitted to medical schools have had courses in organic chemistry and quantitative analysis. They must know considerable biochemistry in order to understand the metabolic disturbances that occur in so many diseases, and to interpret and understand the biochemical methods used to detect functional disturbances.

The book has the merit of simplicity and lucidity. It will serve as a good introduction to the subject of biochemistry, or as a basis upon which to build a more complete and essential knowledge of the subject. It is of little value as a reference source.

A. C. Ivy, Chicago.

*Knud Faber: Gastritis and Its Consequences.* Oxford University Press, London, etc., 1935. 119 pages, 48 illustrations.

THIS monograph, by Knud Faber, Professor of Internal Medicine in the University of Copenhagen, on gastritis most likely will become one of the classics of gastro-enterology. The author writes: "It is possible that the exposition I have given in these lectures may be considered to have too much of the stamp of my own personal views, which are not shared by all." This certainly is true, and exactly this quality of the small book increases its value immensely. Every page challenges the expert reader, every sentence could be

discussed, nothing can be found of the smoothness of a usual textbook containing only ascertained facts. A tremendous experience becomes visible in every line, in fact, the experience of a whole human life. It must not be forgotten that since 1898 Knud Faber has been almost the only clinician to emphasize the existence, frequency and importance of gastritis. Very few workers sustained his opinion, and for 25 years he stood alone continuing his work and his fight. Only with the advent of routine gastroscopy in 1923 and with the work of German pathologists did the situation change. It changed so completely that now gastritis is considered the most frequent gastric disease. Knud Faber's final triumph is a complete one, but his book almost does not mention these events; the modesty of the aged author is remarkable.

The book is composed of three parts corresponding with three lectures delivered at Guy's Hospital Medical School in November, 1934.

In the first part: "*Acute and Chronic Gastritis*" Faber emphasizes the frequency of stomach diseases. Among 120,000 members of the health insurance societies of Denmark, 10%-13% had gastro-intestinal diseases, while only 1.3% had cardiac diseases. Because most of the gastric diseases are not fatal they persist longer and may accompany a patient through a long life. After short historical considerations, Faber describes his famous formalin injection method for preserving the stomach after death. Immediately after death, 500 c.c.m. of formalin solution were injected into the abdomen, and an excellent fixation of the tissue was obtained. Nevertheless, the interpretation of the pictures of the gastric mucosa found microscopically was not easy because dilatation of the stomach and post mortem changes often gave the impression of more advanced atrophy than really existed. Faber then describes the method of Konjetzny, Kalima, Puhl, who examined microscopically freshly resected specimens, but who naturally could examine only the antral part of the stomach. The sudden evolution of gastroscopy in Germany is described and it is stated that those investigators (Schindler, Gutzeit, Henning) claimed that chronic gastritis has been shown to be extremely common.

On one page the description of the normal histology of the stomach is given, chiefly derived from examinations in newborn children. This picture almost never is found in adults, yet Faber seems to be inclined to