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Friends of the Institute

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FRIENDS OF THE INSTITUTE

OLIVER H. GAEBLER,* Ph.D., M.D.

In the closing paragraph of a tribute entitled: "Carl Von Voit, Master and Friend," Graham Lusk wrote: "Scientific progress does not depend on oratory, it does not depend on scribbling, it does not depend on men who sit at desks and think how to distribute funds; it depends on workers in the laboratory. A laboratory is like unto a city set on a high hill. Such a laboratory was that of Carl Voit."

This paragraph is entirely correct, and its ending is sublime. But there is a slightly sour phrase in it, indicating a fear which Lusk had that foundations would push the scientists around. Elsewhere in the cited article, and in his lectures, he repeatedly expressed his gratitude that research which he did in Voit's laboratory, though of no immediate value in connection with a government problem, was considered a service to the state, which paid for the supplies.

Every scientific publication begins with a title, the names of the authors, and the name of the institution or institutions where the work was done. Thus the topic of investigation, the persons who carried it out, and the role of organizations in providing facilities, cannot escape notice. Somewhere in footnotes there may be an acknowledgment to other persons, foundations, or associations whose financial support facilitated the work. Donors usually prefer it that way, and editors get insistent about it. Although the bulk of our support comes from institutions mentioned in the headings of papers, several grants from other sources have facilitated progress in the Biochemistry Department of this Institute to an extent that cannot be adequately acknowledged in footnotes.

The first of these grants was the Adelaide Skinner Fund, from which over \$23,000 has been received to date. This money is being used in connection with our continuing studies of induced growth, and other problems related to cancer research. Another source of outside support, from which \$27,431 has been received or assured at this writing, is the Michigan Chapter, Arthritis and Rheumatism Foundation. Local sponsors of this chapter mention with pride that it antedated the national foundation of which it is now a part. This grant has been extremely helpful in connection with studies of plasma protein patterns in rheumatoid arthritis and other diseases. Part of the money has also been used in connection with other problems in nitrogen metabolism in which the stable isotope, Nitrogen-15, is used. Most recently, we have received help from the American Heart Association. One of their Established Investigators has been appointed to fill a vacancy in this Department. These investigatorships make available average salary support of \$7,000 per year for a period of five years. Our new staff member, Dr. Thomas P. Singer, is a well-known enzyme chemist, and will continue his investigations in this field. Additional support for this work, in the amount of \$43,700 during

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the next three years, has been approved by the National Heart Institute, U. S. Public Health Service.

Our thanks are due to the persons and organizations who have assisted our various projects with such substantial sums. Also, no gift to the Institute is too small to be both useful and appreciated. Mr. Edsel B. Ford, for whom the Institute is named, was a quiet progressive man, some of whose interests cannot be adequately memorialized by naming an expressway after him. A trip to the Art Institute reminds one of some of his other interests, and it is hoped that studies in the Edsel B. Ford Institute for Medical Research will commemorate still others.