NIH TO HELP COMBAT DISEASE IN AFRICA

SOFTBALL AGAIN! BUT WHERE ARE THE DOCS?

When Dr. John Bozicevich yelled "Batter up!" on May 11 to start the first NIH softball game of 1949, spring was officially here.

There weren't as many doctors running around the new diamond near the main entrance as used to be seen cavorting on the old field (now obliterated by construction of the Clinical Center), but the season is young yet. Drs. Norman Topping, F. A. Arnold, J. J. Griffitts, and other medical ballhawks will be out there any day now.

At the end of the season, members of the winning team get a medal or softball pin; and there will also be a party, as in the past, at Top Cottage.

The NIH Softball Association has been in existence for more years than even old-timers can remember. Among the old-timers, incidentally, are Louis Bender, Sr., Tom Hawley, and Roy Reed (who still plays).

The Association is open to everyone -- and that means everyone -- at NIH. If you want to join, just tell the secretary -- and pay $1 to the treasurer. The $1 goes into a fund for equipment, etc.

Officers of the Association are:
- President: Melvin Bryant
- Vice President: Calvin Henson
- Secretary: Britton Smith
- Treasurer: Charles Evans
- Aeneas Collins is Umpire-in-Chief; Roosevelt Williams, Chief Scorer; and William White, Alternate Scorer.

WYCKOFF IS ELECTED TO NATIONAL ACADEMY

The election of Dr. Ralph W. G. Wyckoff, Chief of the Section on Molecular Biophysics, EBMI, to the National Academy of Sciences is one of the highest honors that can come to a scientist in this country.

At the annual meeting of the academy, 29 American scientists were elected. Membership is limited to 450. The elections which included Dr. Wyckoff brought the total membership within one of the maximum quota.

NIH Personnel Branch Is Commended

Commendation for the NIH Personnel Branch resulted from the recent annual inspection of its operations by the U.S. Civil Service Commission. In a letter to Dr. R. E. Dyer, Mr. T. D. Dunn, Acting Regional Director of the Fourth Region, reported as follows:

"I am pleased to state that the report reveals that your personnel staff is operating in an efficient manner, and the members of your personnel staff have exhibited a sincere interest in developing good personnel administration. In addition, the report reveals that there has been an unusually high degree of compliance with pertinent rules and regulations of the U.S. Civil Service Commission. I desire to commend you and the members of your personnel staff for such creditable performance."

DR. BRADY TO MAKE SURVEY FOR BRITISH

Assignment of Dr. Frederick J. Brady, Assistant Chief of the Laboratory of Tropical Diseases, to make a preliminary survey of conditions affecting the control of trypanosomiasis and malaria in East and West Africa has been announced by the Economic Cooperation Administration in Washington and London.

With Mr. Harry H. Stage, insecticide expert of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Dr. Brady will develop detailed recommendations for further United States assistance in combating the tsetse-fly and the mosquito, carriers of the two diseases. They will be particularly interested in determining how United States experts can aid in the utilization of existing facilities and personnel.

During the three-weeks' visit to Africa, Dr. Brady will investigate present research facilities of the British dependent territories and make recommendations concerning recruiting of additional personnel as well as methods of training available native personnel to perform some of the simpler research tasks. Mr. Stage will survey the British insecticide research program, the proposed Nigeria malaria service, and related activities. Their findings will be used by the British Government in preparing plans for more intensive research and control measures on trypanosomiasis and malaria.
Science Elsewhere

Peptic Ulcer Test

A laboratory test that tells whether or not a person may develop peptic ulcers was reported at the last meeting of the American Psychosomatic Society. One society official termed the report "the first tangible proof of the reality of psychosomatic medicine."

The test, a urine analysis, detects an over-production of pepsinogens secreted by the stomach. This increased gastric activity has been frequently associated with emotional crises.

Safety Pipette Filler

A safety pipette filler now commercially available eliminates a common hazard of the laboratory. Corrosive, poisonous, or infectious liquids can be pipetted accurately with simple, forefinger control of the liquid level.

This aluminum filler simulates the action of the mouth in drawing solutions into pipettes. It has an ingenious valve, which causes the piston to draw liquid up into the pipette when the piston is raised, but prevents this liquid from being expelled when the piston is lowered. Liquid drains from the pipette when the pressure of the finger on the plunger is released slightly. This causes the soft rubber cushion to unseat just as the finger would on the top of a pipette.

Clue to Longer Life

A Queen bee has given nutrition scientists a clue to prolonged living. Dr. T. S. Gardner of the Nutrition Foundation analyzed the royal jelly fed to the Queen bee by worker bees and found that the jelly is rich in pantothenic acid and in some other vitamins, including pyridoxin and biotin.

Fruit flies getting the pantothenic acid lived 27.8 percent longer. Those getting pyridoxin lived 10.5 percent longer. Biotin didn't seem to have any effect. Another substance not in the jelly, sodium yeast nucleate, boosted their life span by 11 percent.

NO. 1 IN A SERIES

Studies in Chemotherapy of Malaria

One of the outstanding contributions made by the Public Health Service to the war program was the NIH investigation of malarial chemotherapy. Since the military need for antimalarial drugs is now less urgent, the malarial program has diminished in size. Nevertheless, important basic research work started before the war, supplemented by findings made during the war, continues under the direction of Dr. G. Robert Coateney, Chief of the Section on Chemotherapy of Protozoal Diseases in the Laboratory of Tropical Diseases.

Investigations in immunology and parasitology of malaria have been conducted under the direction of Dr. Victor H. Haas (now Director of the Microbiological Institute) in the laboratory at Memphis, Tenn.; while in Columbia, S. C., productive studies in human malaria have been underway for over 15 years, in cooperation with the South Carolina State Hospital.

When the supply of quinine was suddenly cut off by the war with Japan, the search for antimalarial drugs was greatly expanded. The work of private and governmental research laboratories was coordinated by the National Research Council and financed by the Office of Scientific Research and Development.

The work at NIH was quickly integrated into this nationwide program. During the war the Bethesda laboratory concentrated on the screening of drugs against Plasmodium gallinaceum in young chicks. Of the 14,000 compounds tested under the OSRD program, our laboratory tested over 2,000.

BACTERIA WANTED

Dr. Walter J. Nungester of the University of Michigan is looking for a strain of streptococcus, staphylococcus, or pneumococcus capable of inducing pneumonia in guinea pigs.

In a recent issue of the Newsletter of the Society of American Bacteriologists, he wrote: "As a matter of fact, we would be willing to settle for a guinea pig virulent strain of streptococcus."

His address is: Department of Bacteriology, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Mich.

From time to time, as the occasion arises, the NIH Record will be glad to announce the requirements of NIH scientists for special cultures or comparable items.
DR. PITTMAN HEADS D.C. BACTERIOLOGISTS

Dr. Margaret Pittman, bacteriologist in the Microbiological Institute, is the newly elected president for 1949-50 of the D.C. Society of American Bacteriologists.

The Society held its spring meeting April 26 at the Army Medical Center and adjourned until October. Among the papers read was "The Testing of Cholera Vaccine," by Dr. Roderick Murray, also of the Microbiological Institute. Following the presentation of the papers, members were served refreshments in the Officer's Club, where bacteriologists gather to exchange opinions and enlarge their circle of professional friends.

Information regarding membership in the local or national Society, may be obtained from Dr. Pittman.

PHASE MICROSCOPE IS CANCER RESEARCH TOOL

The much-heralded phase microscope is at present widely used by our cancer researchers.

Probably its most important use, at least in the work of Dr. A. J. Dalton, cytologist, is its application to the preparation of material for electron microscopy. Considerable time is saved by last-minute checks of in vitro preparations.

According to Dr. Dalton, the instrument is a valuable adjunct to many investigators in the study of fresh blood smears and in tissue culture of blood cells.

The motion of polymorphonuclear cells and the massing of platelets to form clumps are interesting phenomena to observe in the three dimensional plane afforded by the phase microscope, says Dr. T. B. Dunn, pathologist of building 8. Dr. Dunn is using this microscope in her studies on various reagents that produce blood dyscrasias in mice.

While the new microscope does not render any of the old microscopic techniques obsolete, it is a valuable addition to our present methods of study. For example, as an adjunct to the Papanicolaou technique it allows rapid and accurate study of smears of fresh biopsy material as a supplement to the examination of fixed and stained tissues.

PHASE MICROSCOPE IS CANCER RESEARCH TOOL

PROJECT SITE VISITS

Dr. G. Robert Coatney and Dr. David E. Price, special consultants to the Pan American Sanitary Bureau in connection with field trials of chemotherapeutic agents in malaria and onchocerciasis, recently returned from a survey trip to the Dominican Republic.

Dr. Coatney, Chief of NIH's Chemotherapy of Protozoal Diseases Section, and Dr. David Price, chief of Research Grants and Fellowships, made project site visits in connection with research grants. Dr. Price extended his trip to include Guatemala City in a survey of onchocerciasis.

DR. NEAL AIDED I.L.O.

Dr. Paul A. Neal, Physical Biology Laboratory Chief, was in Geneva recently in connection with the Model Safety Code for Industrial Establishments now under preparation by the International Labor Office.

SURVEY FOR BRITISH (Continued)

The project, marking one of the first steps in the development of colonial Africa with United States aid, has been arranged under ECA's Technical Assistance Program with the cooperation of the Public Health Service and the Department of Agriculture.

The prevalence of trypanosomiasis and malaria is probably the most important single factor preventing the development of potentially productive mineral and agricultural lands in dependent territories in Africa. Millions of acres are rendered sterile because of human reluctance to enter infected areas and the impossibility of raising livestock.

Dr. Brady was scheduled to leave New York May 17, for London. After several days' consultation with members of the United Kingdom colonial staff, he was to leave for Nigeria.
PERSONNEL NOTES

A significant development in the NIH personnel program was the recent issuance of a promotion policy for employees in professional grades. This policy was developed in response to suggestions from our various Institutes and was approved by the various Institute Directors. Major features of the promotion policy:

1. It is the intent of NIH to fill positions with the best qualified persons available.
2. Preference will be given to NIH employees when their qualifications are equal to the best qualified of other available persons.
3. Promotional opportunities shall be afforded across Institute and Laboratory lines to the fullest extent possible.
4. Promotions within NIH shall be on a merit basis without regard to race, color, creed, or sex.

Promotions to grades P-4 and above must be approved by the Office of the Director. To aid the Director in passing upon recommended promotions, there has been established a Promotion Board composed of seven ranking scientists.

Present members of the Promotion Board are:

- Dr. Lyndon F. Small, Chairman
- Dr. W. E. Heston
- Dr. Frank J. McClure
- Dr. Egon Lorenz
- Dr. Evelyn Anderson
- Dr. Joseph A. Bell
- Dr. James T. Culbertson

EFFICIENCY RATINGS

The Efficiency Rating Program at NIH has been changed from the March 31 Annual Rating to the Anniversary Rating. Heretofore, employees were given annual efficiency ratings on March 31. Employees are now given a regular rating six months after entrance on duty or after any change to a position of a different service, class, or grade. The date of the six-month rating establishes the Anniversary date for efficiency rating purposes. Employees will be given annual ratings on the Anniversary dates of their last ratings.

This is the first year we have had our own Efficiency Rating Committee at NIH. The Committee is responsible for the review and approval of the regular efficiency ratings.

RECREATION & WELFARE ASSOCIATION

A glee club is being organized under the leadership of Dr. Willis C. Beasley. He was director of the NIH Glee Club in 1940-41. More than 75 voices are expected to make up the glee club chorus.

"If sufficiently good voices can be found," says Mr. A. P. Collins, president of the NIH Recreation and Welfare Association, "a number of quartets will also be organized. These might be used later to provide entertainment for NIH meetings and other functions."

Formation of a girl's soft ball team is also now being planned. NIH personnel are encouraged to "try out" for positions. Plans for the team include games with other FSA teams this spring and coming summer.

If enough interested individuals are found, a dramatic club will also be started. Those interested should contact Mrs. Mary T. Beecher, Bldg. T-6.

As a benefit to its members, the Association has arranged with Bethesda and Washington business proprietors to give 10 to 20 percent reductions on purchases made by Association members. Already 64 establishments, ranging from gasoline stations to a beauty parlor, have agreed to join the Discount List. More business establishments are expected to be added to the list in the near future.

Officers of the Association are:

- President, Mr. A. P. Collins, Bldg. 1;
- Vice President, Mr. Ted Gates, Bldg. T-6;
- Recording Secretary, Miss Lucille Dyson, Bldg. 2;
- Treasurer, Mrs. Dorothy Kuster, Bldg. T-6. Chairman of the Membership Committee is Miss Sylvia Golodner, Bldg. 4.

PARRAN SCHOLARSHIP

You may want to participate in the campaign to provide funds for the Thomas Parran Scholarship Fund. Through the voluntary contributions it is hoped that sufficient funds will be raised to finance a scholarship for at least one deserving student each year at the School of Public Health, University of Pittsburgh, where Dr. Parran is now the Dean. Participation blanks have been distributed for your convenience in making contributions.

NEW PEOPLE AT N.I.H.

During April the following persons joined our staff:

- Ashland, Roger D. - RG&F
- Atwell, Philip W. - NCI = Research
- Beard, Elizabeth L. - OD = OSR
- Bruce, Robert E. - EO = Bldgs.
- Bunting, Warren J. - EBMI = LPB
- Burdette, Melvin R., Jr. - EO = LAB
- Collier, Marie T. - NCI = Research
- Dove, Charlotte V. - NCI = Research
- Eisenberg, Mary L. - NCI = Research
- Franklin, William N. - EO = Bldgs.
- Frazier, George B. - EO = Bldgs.
- Hoff, Anthony J. - EO = Bldgs.
- Hohmann, Anna M. - NCI = Research
- Ing, Robert B. - EBMI = B&N
- Irwin, Harlan M. - EO = LAB
- Johnson, Joseph H. - EO = Bldgs.
- Jones, Johnnie - EO = Bldgs.
- Lillie, Irene G. - RG&F
- Payne, Harold D. - EO = Bldgs.
- Powick, William C. - NCI = Research
- Prather, Bertie L. - OD = OSR
- Raver, John S. - EO = Bldgs.
- Robertson, Archie - NCI = Reports
- Schrecker, Helene - OD = OSR
- Sherbert, Joan L. - EBMI = Admin.
- Stringham, Jean M. - NCI = Research
- Summerour, Roy D. - EBMI = C&C
- Turner, Leroy A. - EO = Bldgs.
- Wardell, Caroline R. - NCI = Research
- Warfield, Nanja M. - OD = OSR
- Zissis, Emanuel - EBMI = C&C

Selected READING LIST

Recent additions to the Library: