INFLUENZA CENTER CONTINUES AT T-6

The Influenza Information Center at T-6 will be continued for one more year.

It was set up a year ago to serve as headquarters in the Western Hemisphere for a worldwide program to study influenza and aid physicians and health officials in controlling the disease.

The program was initiated by the World Health Organization and is sponsored jointly in this country by the Surgeons General of the Army, Navy, Air Force, and PHS, through an inter-agency Committee for the Control of Influenza. Dr. Norman Topping, Associate Director of NIH, is Chairman of the Committee.

More than 50 laboratories in all parts of the country are collaborating in the program. They report, direct to the Influenza Information Center, all outbreaks of influenza as well as the results of diagnostic studies, including the identifications of isolated virus.

Periodic reports from the Center are included as a supplement of the Communicable Disease Summary of the National Office of Vital Statistics.

Dr. J. T. Culbertson of the Division of Research Grants and Fellowships is in charge of the Center.

HAMSTERS COME OUT OF HIDING MARCH 8

Somewhat recovered from their initial venture, "Life at NIH," our thespian Hamsters are coming out of hibernation.

They will meet in Wilson Hall at noon on Wednesday, March 8, to discuss future plans.

WASHINGTON ACADEMY AWARD FOR DR. HAMPP

Dr. Edward G. Hampp of the Oral Bacteriology Section, National Institute of Dental Research, has been selected by the Washington Academy of Sciences to receive the 1949 Academy Award in the biological sciences.

Dr. Hampp was selected "in recognition of his original and fundamental contributions to the knowledge of diseases of the oral cavity, and particularly because he was the first to isolate Borrelia vincentii in pure culture, thus making possible new approaches to the study of spirochetes."

The award will be formally presented to Dr. Hampp at the regular monthly meeting of the Academy, March 16, in the Assembly Hall of the Cosmos Club.

Dr. Hampp is a Senior Research Associate of the American Dental Association and has been working at NIH since 1941.

MILDRED STRUVE JOINS NIH STAFF

DIRECTOR OF NURSING AT CLINICAL CENTER

Miss Mildred Struve has been appointed Director of Nursing Services for the Clinical Center.

She holds the rank of Senior Nurse Officer in the PHS Commissioned Corps and has been serving as director of nursing services at the Marine Hospital in Seattle.

In commenting on the appointment, Assistant Surgeon General Lucile Petry, who is Chief Nurse Officer of the PHS, said: "Miss Struve, both professionally and as an individual personality, is unusually well qualified to discharge the heavy responsibilities of a director of nursing in the Clinical Center."

A graduate of Johns Hopkins Nursing School, Miss Struve has done graduate work in nursing at Johns Hopkins University and Teachers College, Columbia University. For a number of years she was associated with Johns Hopkins Hospital, where she carried responsibility for supervision of nursing in a research unit and in the Osler Clinic. She entered the PHS Commissioned Corps in 1949.

Miss Struve is a member of the honorary education societies of Kappa Delta Pi and Pi Lambda Theta. In addition to the American Association of University Women, she holds membership in such professional organizations as the National League of Nursing Education, the International Congress of Nurses, and the American Nurses Association.
Anti-Anemia Factor

Isolation from ox liver of a red crystalline substance ("probably identical with vitamin B12") which is intensely active against pernicious anemia is reported by a group of researchers working at Glaxo Laboratories, Ltd., in the January 10 issue of the Proceedings of the Royal Society.

The group includes Dr. E. Lester Smith, who conducted a seminar on the subject here on December 12.

A second red factor, also active both clinically and microbiologically, has been separated but not yet crystallized.

DR. B. J. OLSON
NOW ASST. CHIEF OF LID

Dr. Byron J. Olson has been appointed Assistant Chief of the Laboratory of Infectious Diseases, Microbiological Institute.

He succeeds Dr. Carl L. Larson, who was recently made Director of the Institute's Rocky Mountain Laboratory.

Dr. Olson has been serving as Chief of the Section on Bacterial and Mycotic Diseases.

Since coming to NIH 12 years ago, Dr. Olson has been actively engaged in laboratory and field studies of infectious diseases.

He assisted health officers and physicians of Louisiana in checking an epidemic of severe and often fatal pneumonitis in the bayou region in 1943, when large numbers of troops were stationed there. He and his associates identified the organism and developed a preventive vaccine, for use in future epidemics.

He made other significant contributions in studies of pulmonary calcification of nontuberculous origin, a condition indistinguishable from tuberculosis on X-ray film.

More recently Dr. Olson and his associates have been evaluating the role of fungi, such as Histoplasma capsulatum, in pulmonary disease.

The Unit on Physical Biochemistry, headed by Dr. Karl Sollner (in the Section on Molecular Biophysics, Laboratory of Physical Biology, Experimental Biology and Medicine Institute), is studying the physical chemistry of membranes. Dr. Sollner is assisted in this work by Dr. Sheldon Dray, Mr. Eugene Grim, and Mr. Rex A. Neihof.

While a great deal of material describing the action of membranes in living cells and tissues is available, our insight into the fundamental physical mechanisms which govern the typical behavior of membranes, particularly as far as electrolytes are concerned, is still rather scanty.

The Unit on Physical Biochemistry is expanding our knowledge of membrane behavior (1) by the controlled preparation of artificial membranes with very distinct and characteristic electrochemical properties, (2) by the systematic study of the electrochemical behavior of these membranes in basic physico-chemical situations, and (3) by using these membranes in complex model studies which try to reproduce specific situations in living organisms.

Membranes are now available which differentiate to a nearly ideal degree between electropositively and electronegatively charged particles in solution. They are permeable, according to the method of their preparation, either only for cations or solely for anions.

These so-called "permselective" membranes make possible the study of Donnan membrane equilibria, even of a complex nature, which involve only the ions of strong inorganic electrolytes. This is very helpful in the study of many biochemically and physiologically important systems.

Permselective membranes may also be used as "membrane electrodes" for the rapid, easy, and accurate electrometric determination of the activities of practically all univalent cations and anions. For the determination of many of these activities, other electrometric methods are not available.

Current work includes a study of the electromotive membrane effects which arise in the presence of...
continued...

several species of electromotively active ions of the same sign or charge. This situation is a simplified prototype of many living systems.

Another study is concerned with quantitative tests of a theory of the electrolyte permeability of mosaic membranes which are composed of exclusively anion and exclusively cation permeable parts. The quantitative verification of this theory represents the first instance in which a composite membrane system has been amenable to such treatment.

Still another study deals with demarcation of the limits of the conditions under which "anomalous osmosis" can occur. The purpose is to test whether anomalous osmosis may be considered an essential contributory factor in many glandular actions, as is assumed by several leading physiologists.

Dr. Sollner is connected with the University of Minnesota as an unsalaried Professor of Physiological Chemistry in the Medical and Graduate Schools. Candidates for advanced degrees at the University of Minnesota may carry out their thesis work under his direction in NIH laboratories.

This cooperation between NIH and a large university has already been found mutually helpful. One of Dr. Sollner's predoctorate assistants, Mr. Grim, is doing his thesis work here now; and another, Mr. Neihoff, is writing his thesis.

DR. ALLEN'S ELECTRO-CHEMICAL INSTRUMENT

Many advances in the field of electro-organic chemistry may be expected in the near future from an instrument designed and built by Dr. Milton J. Allen of the Endocrinology Section of the National Cancer Institute.

Organic compounds which could not previously be prepared by chemical methods, or which could be prepared only in very small quantities, can now be made in good yields by this instrument.

For example, it will reduce nitro compounds to amino compounds, as well as produce alcohols from ketones and aldehydes, pinacols from ketones, and hydrobenzonils from aldehydes -- all in very good yields.

Electrolytic oxidations or reductions are now being carried out at constant current density. This is equivalent to using only one reducing or oxidizing reagent.

Dr. Allen's instrument uses a constant cathode voltage for a reduction and a constant anode voltage for an oxidation. This is equivalent to using only one reducing or oxidizing reagent.
MR. J. B. BLACK
IS NIH SAFETY ENGINEER

Mr. James B. Black has been appointed Safety Engineer for NIH. Before joining us he did similar work for the Navy at Indian Head, Maryland.

Hazards at NIH have grown because of increased population and crowding and perhaps also because of a tendency in some quarters to neglect safety requirements.

Mr. Black will develop a comprehensive program to safeguard people and property from fires, accidents, and hazards to health. In doing this he will need the cooperation of all employees.

Mr. Black can be reached at 111 Bldg. 1 -- Ext. 393.

NEW DISCOUNT CARDS
FOR R & W MEMBERS

New 1950 discount cards for members of the Recreation and Welfare Association are now available.

As a benefit to its members, the Association has arranged with many Bethesda and Washington businesses to give 10 to 20 percent discounts on purchases made by members. You have to show your card to get the discount.

Get your card from:

Bldg. 1. Mr. George H. Cavey, Rm. 5, Ext. 2032
" 2. Miss Philomena Williams, Rm. 105, Ext. 2083
" 4. Miss Blanche Hogue, Rm. 309, Ext. 458
" 5. Mr. Melvin Bryant, Rm. 35-B, Ext. 362
" 6. Miss Ann Sigwald, Rm. 213, Ext. 635
" 7. Mrs. Nellie Blake, Lobby, Ext. 346
" 8. Mr. Wayne Levillain, Rm. 2, Ext. 326
" T-6. (NHI only) Mrs. Mary Alice Beecher, Rm. 2051, Ext. 311
" T-6. (All other) Mr. Theodore Gates, Rm. 1309, Ext. 798


HEALTH UNIT OFFICER

Dr. Joseph Gallagher has reported for duty as Medical-Officer-in-Charge of the NIH Health Unit.

Dr. Gallagher interned at the Marine Hospital in San Francisco, and was engaged in private practice in that city.

He succeeds Dr. C. W. Whitmore, who has accepted an assignment with the Employees' Compensation Commission.

CREDIT UNION ELECTS
AND DECLARES DIVIDEND

Board and committee members were elected at the annual meeting of the NIH Credit Union on January 11, as follows:

Board of Directors
Capt. Laurence M. Johnson, OD-Bldgs.
Mrs. Amy L. Nifong, OD-Fisc.
Mr. William A. Oliff, OD-Pers.
Mrs. Lillian M. Rankin, RG&F-OP

Credit Committee
Mr. Thaddeus C. Green, OD-Bldgs.
Mr. Lloyd J. Bankard, OD-Bldgs.
Mrs. Dorothy D. Amos, OD-Pers.

Supervisory Committee
Miss Elizabeth Wiehle, OD-Fisc.
Dr. Heinz Specht, EBMI-LPB

The Treasurer, Capt. Laurence M. Johnson, was voted a salary of $750 for his services during the past year.

A dividend of 4 1/2 percent on share accounts was declared for the year ending 31 December 1949. This is an increase of 1/2 percent over the dividend paid the previous year.

PAMPHLET TELLS HOW
TO GET A GOV'T JOB

A pamphlet that tells how to get Government career appointments has been prepared by the Board of Civil Service Examiners at NIH.

It gives a great deal of concise information not only on how to get a Federal job in the first place but how to get a better appointment if you're already employed by the Government.

You can get a copy by phoning Ext. 696.

DR. PHILIP IS NO. 2
AT ROCKY MT. LAB.

Dr. Cornelius B. Philip has been appointed Assistant Director of the Rocky Mountain Laboratory, Microbiological Institute.

Dr. Philip has served as medical entomologist at Hamilton, Montana, since 1930, except for one year spent doing research on a Guggenheim Fellowship and four years of military service during World War II.

Dr. Philip's work at the Rocky Mountain Laboratory has consisted mainly of research on the transmission of various diseases by ticks and insects.

During the war he did research and taught at the Army Medical School in Washington, D. C. He also served as a member of the National Defense Virus and Rickettsial Diseases Commission and the U. S. A. Typhus Commission. For his work he was awarded the Typhus Commission Medal.

He is a member of the American Society of Parasitologists and the American Society of Tropical Medicine.

Selected Reading

Recent additions to the Library:

Fulton, John F.
Physiology of the nervous system. 3d ed. N. Y., Oxford Univ. Press, 1949.

Möller, Folke.

U. S. Armed Forces Special Weapons Project.

Weissberger, Arnold.