LONDON VISITORS VIEW NIH FACILITIES

British health authorities inspect model of NIH grounds during recent visit with NIH officials. Shown here (left to right) are Dr. Vane M. Hoge, Associate Chief, NIH Bureau of Medical Services; Dr. J. E. Pater, Under Secretary, British Ministry of Health; Dr. Sebrell, NIH Director; Dr. G. E. Godber, Deputy Chief Medical Officer, Ministry of Health; and Dr. Masur, Chief of the Bureau of Medical Services.

EXPERTS TALK ON BIOLOGICAL WARFARE

Dr. Haas Represents NIH

On TV Science Program

Biological warfare, a subject far less familiar to most people than widely publicized atomic warfare, was discussed by a panel of health authorities, including Dr. Victor H. Haas, Director of NIM, in an interview on the John Hopkins Science Review, April 3.

Participating with Dr. Haas in the 30-minute Dumont network program originating at WAAM, Baltimore, were Dr. Alexander Langmuir of the Communicable Disease Center, Atlanta, and Dr. Norvin C. Kiefer of the Federal Civil Defense Administration.

Loose talk of germs killing millions of people at once was dismissed as nonsense by the speakers. Biological warfare is not a superweapon, nor is it considered comparable in mass destructive power to atomic weapons. It is not waged with unknown disease agents.

Dr. Haas pointed out that many germs which are disseminated among humans by natural means can be transmitted among laboratory animals by experimental methods. Influenza viruses, for example, can easily be atomized into the air in such a way as to produce the disease in mice that inhale the particles. What has been done with experimental animals can be done intentionally by an enemy agent, he concluded.

Dr. Langmuir explained how an enemy might conceivably launch a biological attack -- releasing germ clouds by plane or submarine, contaminating water supplies or food shipments -- and what problems would have to be solved before such an attack could prove successful.

Dr. Kiefer discussed Civil Defense responsibilities and the community role of the individual.

DR. SEBRELL ASKS STRONG SUPPORT OF AWARDS SYSTEM

Full support of the FSA Incentive Awards System by all NIH employees was urged by Dr. William H. Sebrell, Jr., Director of NIH, in a statement emphasizing the goal of the program and the opportunities available to staff members.

Dr. Sebrell declared that the effectiveness of NIH in carrying out its responsibilities depends upon the efficient performance of duties by each employee. Problems are often met by the original suggestions of staff members. This is true, he said, of all levels and categories. It applies as much to the laboratory aide as to the unit or section chief. And its truth is just as valid with administrative personnel, from clerk or stenographer to supervisor or branch chief.

The Federal Government, Dr. Sebrell pointed out, has provided the means by which individuals or groups of individuals may be recognized and rewarded for original suggestions and superior contributions. The National Institutes of Health, as part of the Public Health Service and The Federal Security Agency, wishes to cooperate to the fullest extent in this Incentive Awards Program.

Dr. Sebrell invited the attention of all staff members to a series of articles to be carried in future issues of the NIH Record describing various aspects of the Incentive Awards Program.

Under this program, awards may be made for any suggestion that is outside the normal requirements of the employee's duties and that results in improvement or economy of operations. Included here are cash awards or salary increases for outstanding efficiency.
Modern medicine owes much to the pathologist, whose findings frequently have helped solve a knotty research problem or nailed down the answer to a complex clinical inquiry. In a restricted sense, his job concerns the reactions of living organisms to injury. He deals with the causes of disease, the changes these causes induce, and the ways that the body combats both causes and changes.

At NIH, this work (except for that performed at NCI, which has its own pathology unit) is carried out by the Section on Pathologic Anatomy in NIAMD's Laboratory of Pathology and Pharmacology. Head of the section is Dr. James H. Peers, whose staff at present consists of 19 professional and technical personnel.

The section operates an extensive program. It provides diagnostic services to certain Federal institutions; trains junior medical, veterinary, and dental officers; carries out cooperative pathologic studies with the various constituents of NIH; and conducts independent research.

Federal institutions for which the section supplies diagnostic service on human surgical and autopsy material are the hospitals of the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the Alaskan Native Service, Bureau of Prisons, and the smaller PHS hospitals. This work furnishes a supply of human tissues for research and for the training of junior officers. Daily staff conferences are held to consider tissues submitted for study and to evaluate reports on the material.

Here at NIH, Dr. Peers and his staff cooperate with other units in a variety of projects. With the Section on Pharmacology and Toxicology they are studying kidney lesions in burn shock and the effect of various therapeutic measures in modifying them. With the Biologics Control Lab they are trying to identify the substances in brain tissue responsible for the occasional serious encephalitis following inoculation for rabies. With the Section on Virus Diseases they are investigating the disease-producing properties of the Coxsackie virus. In this connection, they have confirmed the ability of the virus to destroy the muscles of sucking mice and have extended the observations to chick embryos in which similar lesions are produced despite great species differences.

Independent investigations by Dr. Peers' section include an extensive study of the topographic pathology of polio and a project on histochemistry -- a study of the chemical nature of tissue elements, their enzymes and secretions, and the development of new methods for their detection.

**Honors**

Miss D. Jane Taylor of NMI was given honorable mention by the Research Awards Committee of Sigma Delta Epsilon for her contribution to a study entitled, "Experimental Infection of Guinea Pigs with Endamoeba histolytica."

Dr. Ralph W. G. Wyckoff, NIAMD, has been named to serve as one of three biophysics editors for the Archives of Biochemistry and Biophysics. He is now serving in an editorial capacity for seven scientific publications.

**Trips and Talks**

Eighteen NIH scientists attended the April 1-5 meeting of the American Chemical Society in Boston. They were Drs. Carl G. Baker, Hans J. Caumman, Jesse P. Greenstein, Jonathan L. Hartwell, Erwin F. Hoffman, Gerson Kegeles, John Koo, Leon Levintow, Alton Meister, and Toru Miyaji, all of NCI. NMI was represented by Dr. Benjamin Prescott, and NIAMD by Drs. Howard W. Bond, Stephen P. Findlay, Hewitt G. Fletcher, Jr., Leon A. Heppel, Bernard L. Horecker, Nelson K. Richtmyer and Arthur Kornberg. At this meeting, Dr. Kornberg received the Paul-Lewis Award for his contributions to enzyme chemistry.

Six NIH scientists attended the April 8-12 meeting of the American Chemical Society in Cleveland. They were Dr. James B. Gilbert of NCI, and Drs. Edward M. Fry, Arthur T. Ness, Harry A. Saroff, Yoshio Sato, and Karl Solliner, all of NIAMD.

Manley W. Kilgore, DRG, attended the April 6 meeting of the Association of Medical Directors in New York City.

NIH plans for research on neurological diseases and blindness was the subject of an address given by Dr. William H. Sebrell, Jr., NIH director, on April 11 before the American Academy of Neurology, Virginia Beach, Va.

Dr. David E. Price, Associate Director of NIH, spoke on health and international cooperation at the Doctors' Dinner given by the United Jewish Appeal in Milwaukee on April 5.
### NIH Spotlight

#### Helen Small

Take it from Helen Small, there's nothing mysterious about sewing with one hand. When you've done it most of your life, you accept it rather matter-of-factly. You forget that some people bungle the job with two hands, would quail at the thought of tackling it with one.

For some two years, attractive Helen Small has been threading an expert needle at NIH, turning out everything from special jackets for rats to "booties" for the Isotope Lab staff.

How does one master sewing skills with only one hand to apply to the task? Credit for this triumph of adaptation Mrs. Small attributes to her mother, a discerning woman who early decided that her daughter would face her handicap naturally and overcome it by determined effort. Necessity, too, played a part. Helen took over many household duties during periods of illness when her mother was incapacitated.

Born at Sunshine, Md., and reared on a farm, Helen is the second oldest of eight children. She was an honor student, Helen remembers, made A's in all the usual activities. She played volleyball and dodge ball with the other children, and in fact shared in all the usual activities. Her favorite: Lilies of the Valley.

### NIH SOFTBALL PLAYERS

Britton Smith of NCI has been elected President of the NIH Softball Association. Other officers chosen at a recent meeting of the group were Elwood E. Lyles, Laboratory Aids Branch, Vice President; and Peter J. Boyle, NCI, Secretary-Treasurer.

The team has been entered in the District League, and scheduled games are expected to get under way some time in May.

### NIAMD IS REGROUPED; FIVE NAMED TO POSTS

New organization plans and staff assignments at NIAMD have been announced by Dr. Floyd S. Daft, who is serving as Acting Director of the Institute in the absence of Dr. Russell M. Wilder.

The Institute was reorganized to prepare it for expanded responsibilities in the fields of arthritis, rheumatism, and the metabolic disorders, as authorized by Public Law 692, which last year abolished the Experimental Biology and Medicine Institute and assigned its functions to NIAMD.

Under the new set-up, NIAMD will comprise three main divisions: the Laboratory Research Branch, Clinical Investigations Branch, and Extramural Programs Branch.

The four major Laboratories that formerly made up EBMI will constitute the Laboratory Research Branch. The following new staff appointments within this branch were announced:

- Dr. Olaf Micelkson, as Assistant Chief of the Laboratory of Biochemistry and Nutrition.
- Dr. Robert E. Smith, as Chief of the Section on Metabolic and Degenerative Diseases, Laboratory of Pathology and Pharmacy.
- Dr. Erich Mosettig, as Assistant Chief of the Laboratory of Chemistry and Chief of the Section on Steroids; Dr. Hewitt G. Fletcher, Chief of the Section on Carbohydrates; and Dr. Nathan B. Eddy, Chief of the Section on Analgesics.

The Clinical Investigations Branch, which will operate in the Clinical Center when it is completed, is now being organized.

Appointment of a chief for the Extramural Programs Branch, which is housed in Bldg. T-6, will be announced in the near future.

### Britton Smith

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HOW BIOLOGICS CONTROL LAB PROTECTS NATION'S HEALTH

For almost 50 years, Public Health Service scientists and technicians have been engaged in a work of vital importance to the Nation -- control of all biologic products manufactured in the United States. What they accomplished over the years is an impressive story: a story of painstaking work and perpetual vigilance; a story of lives saved; above all, a story of distinguished public service.

Today, this far-reaching work is carried on by NIND's Biologies Control Laboratory, which occupies the third floor of Bldg. 5. Its Chief is Dr. William G. Workman, a veteran of 20 years with the Public Health Service.

At the time Congress passed the Biologies Control Law in 1902, there were only three biologic products on the market -- diphtheria and tetanus antitoxins, and smallpox vaccine. Past experience had underlined the potential danger of biologies due to lack of standards and controls. To protect the public, Congress gave PHS the job of testing all such products for purity, safety, and potency. The control included imported biologies, as well as those manufactured in this country.

The Biologies Control Lab does a good deal more than inspect manufactured products. Its researchers work constantly to improve biologies now on the market and to find new immunizing agents for diseases that so far have eluded science. One of its biggest jobs in World War II was setting up safety standards and supervising plasma production in the commercial laboratories, from the 13 million pints of blood the American people donated to the armed forces through the Red Cross. This work is still going on.

Major accomplishments of the laboratory include purification of rabies vaccine, development of an influenza virus vaccine and a potency test for whooping cough, improvement of a therapeutic serum for epidemic meningitis, and development of a pyrogen test for blood and blood products. Notable progress has also been made with measures aimed at eliminating jaundice virus from blood plasma.