Surgeon General Scheele (center) and NIH Director Sebrell (right) congratulate Philco Playhouse star on his portrayal of Dr. Joseph Goldberger, pioneer PHS scientist who discovered cause of pellagra. The dramatization of Dr. Goldberger's work was televised recently on occasion of Philco's 100th broadcast.

NIH TO SEE NEW LAB EQUIPMENT

A wide range of new and improved technical equipment, including some instruments to be shown publicly for the first time, will be exhibited and demonstrated at NIH by forty of the Nation's leading manufacturers of laboratory equipment, May 15-17.

The three-day show, arranged by the Purchase and Supply Branch, will give scientists and their staffs a chance to examine the latest models in bench-type equipment, view them in operation, and question manufacturers' representatives on their laboratory uses.

Half of the exhibits will be set up in Wilson Hall and the others at the Peter House, according to Mr. James B. Davis, Chief of the Purchase Section. Exhibit hours will be from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Scheduled for its first showing anywhere, is a pocket-size pH meter manufactured by Analytical Measurements, Inc., Chatham, N. J.

INCENTIVE AWARDS, WHAT THEY MEAN

This is the first in a series of articles on FSA's Incentive Awards Program and its significance to NIH employees.

Some time ago a laboratory assistant at NIH, observing experiments in progress in his Institute, decided that certain work procedures were unwieldy and should be improved. He put his ideas to work and came up with three pieces of equipment designed to simplify routine tasks, the nature of which others had long taken for granted.

Here is what he devised: an operating block adapted for holding laboratory animals; a rocker that agitates media in an incubator; and an inoculating block that facilitates intravenous inoculation of chickens.

For his accomplishments, he was awarded a one-step advancement in grade.

There are many reasons why formal recognition of superior accomplishment makes good sense.

MALARIA DRUGS ARE TESTED ON U. S. PRISONERS

A group of 30 prisoner volunteers at the Federal Penitentiary in Atlanta were inoculated with malaria late in April, as PHS investigators inaugurated a new clinical project to test promising antimalarial drugs.

Directing the project is Dr. G. Robert Coatney, of NMI's Laboratory of Tropical Diseases. The work was undertaken at the request of the Army's Research and Development Board because of the occurrence of relapsing malaria among U. S. troops in Korea. Objective of the study is to find out which of the new 8-aminoquinoline drugs is least toxic and what doses can be safely used to obtain a radical cure. They are being tested against the old standard drug, pentaquine.

The Atlanta prisoners receive $100 apiece for participating in the malaria project. One of them, Dr. Coatney said, has requested that his award be turned over to a fund for crippled children.

The project is an outgrowth of a recommendation made by a committee named by the National Research Council to advise the Army on malaria research. In addition to requesting reactivation of the NIH clinical testing project, the committee also recommended support of a similar project at the University of Chicago.

Drugs previously tested at NIH and by other research organizations had proved successful in treating and suppressing malaria of the type encountered in Korea. But those aimed at radical cure proved too toxic. They sometimes cause a breakdown of the red cells in the blood and may affect the gastrointestinal system.
Using a device known as a bicycle ergometer, NHI researchers measure physiological displacement and recovery of patient following exercise. Gerontology Section is in Baltimore.

In the past half century the number of people in the United States 65 years of age or over almost quadrupled. This age group today comprises over 11 million people; by 1975 it will embrace an estimated 20 million.

The inference here is obvious. We are a rapidly aging nation. As individuals, our average expectation of life has risen to 68 years and will continue to climb for years to come. In another 25 years, nearly half our population will be over 45.

This trend toward an aging population has resulted in increased emphasis in recent years upon research into the aging process. Under the direction of Dr. Nathan W. Shock, NHI’s Section on Gerontology, located in the Baltimore City Hospitals, is conducting studies on the physiological, biochemical, and psychological changes that take place in aging man.

One of the first measurable indications of aging, Dr. Shock points out, is the slowing down of basic physiologic processes. This is illustrated by comparing the speed with which extra sugar is removed from the blood stream in young and old patients after oral or intravenous administration. With the former, this mechanism is clearly more effective.

The same holds true of other organ systems. The excretory capacity of the kidney, for instance, may be lessened in older people even though no symptoms of kidney disease are present. Other physiological changes include reduction in basal oxygen consumption, in acidity of digestive fluids, in elasticity of arteries, and in range of accommodation of the eye.

In the matter of oxygen consumption, Dr. Shock and his associates have demonstrated that an adolescent can recover completely from maximal exercise in thirty minutes, whereas adults require three or four hours to recover after comparable exertion. For employers, this indicates that frequent rest periods are more necessary to older workers than to younger ones. It also underscores the importance of assigning older workers to tasks that make fewer demands upon their physical abilities and in which speed of response is of little importance.

There is much that remains to be learned about the aging process—much that can only be ascertained through clinical investigation. This aspect of research requires the cooperation of many middle-aged and older people who are willing to serve as experimental subjects.

Here and There

Honors

Dr. R. E. Dyer, former Director of NIH, was awarded the James D. Bruce Memorial Medal at the 32d annual session of the American College of Physicians in St. Louis, April 9. At the same meeting Dr. Robert J. Huebner of NMI served as guest moderator for a panel discussion on recent developments in virus diseases.

Dr. Karl Habel, Chief of NMI’s Laboratory of Infectious Diseases, was recently elected to membership in the Washington Chapter of Sigma Xi.

Annual Leave

Employees are reminded by Personnel that all annual leave earned in the calendar year 1950 must be used by June 30, 1951. Any balance after that date will be forfeited.

Cancer Pamphlets

Two new public education booklets dealing with cancer of the skin and of the genito-urinary tract have been released. Single copies are available from NCI’s Cancer Reports Section.

Centrifuge Talk

The Purchase and Supply Branch has scheduled a discussion of research centrifuges for May 18 at 1 p.m., in the conference room of the Peter House. Two top officials of the International Equipment Company will lead the discussion.

Atom Bomb Brochure

The NIH Radiation Safety Committee has obtained supplies of the booklet, "Survival Under Atomic Attack." Employees may receive copies from their section heads.

Prize Winner

"The Challenge of Cancer" has been named by the American Institute of Graphic Arts as one of the 50 best books of 1950 from the standpoint of typography and design. The book was written by Lester Grant, New York newsman, with the cooperation of NCI and other organizations.
DR. KAREL APPOINTED NMI GRANTS CHIEF

Appointment of Dr. Leonard Karel as Chief of NMI's new Extramural Grants Branch has been announced by Dr. Victor H. Haas, Director of the Microbiological Institute.

In his new post, Dr. Karel will be in administrative charge of the research grants program in the field of infectious and tropical diseases. The position was established to help integrate the grants program with the research objectives of intramural activities.

Before joining NMI's staff, Dr. Karel served for three years with the Division of Research Grants, where he was executive secretary of the Pharmacology and Dental Study Sections. Prior to 1947, he helped plan and conduct extensive research programs in toxicology and pharmacology at the Army Chemical Center, Edgewood Arsenal, Md., both as a commissioned officer during World War II and later as a civilian employee.

Born in Baltimore in 1912, Dr. Karel received his A.B. degree from Johns Hopkins University in 1932 and his Ph.D. from the University of Maryland in 1941. He is the author of numerous papers in the field of toxicology and pharmacology, and is co-author of "Dictionary of Antibiosis," scheduled for June release by the Columbia University Press.

NMI SCIENTISTS ABROAD

Two scientists of NMI's Laboratory of Infectious Diseases are serving on special assignments abroad.

Dr. Joseph A. Bell, Chief of the Epidemiology Section, left early in April for Geneva, Switzerland, to attend month-long sessions of the World Health Organization's committee on international sanitary regulations. He was appointed chairman of the U.S. delegation by the State Department.

Dr. James Watt, who is in charge of the Laboratory's diarrheal disease investigations, is in Brazil conferring with field investigators on dysentery and salmonella problems as a consultant with the Institute of Inter-American Affairs.

NIH Spotlight

Robert L. Campbell

In this century -- the most visual-minded in man's history -- pictures claim the largest audiences of any communication medium. They speak a universal language, the value of which is reflected in the old Chinese saying about a picture being worth ten thousand words.

Like all visual information folk, NIMH's Robert Campbell strongly believes in the potentialities of pictures, their ability to reach, inform, persuade, and enlighten people. His field of specialization is the motion picture.

Bob's principal responsibility is screening films on mental health subjects. Prints of superior films are purchased for use by the mental health consultants in the FSA regional offices, who show them to State mental health officials. The latter may buy prints for their film libraries. Groups reached by these films include PTA's, colleges, and various civic organizations.

How many prints are made of the average nontheatrical educational film? The answer is about 250. Well above this average is NIMH's "Preface to a Life," of which 400 prints have been made.

It was during World War II that Bob received his training in visual information. He worked three years at the Visual Aids Center of Walter Reed Hospital, the last year serving as Chief. He joined PHS in 1948.

Now serving as President of the NIH Recreation and Welfare Association, Bob is earnestly shaking the bushes for new members. The treasury, he says, needs fattening up since the Association shelled out $895 for a grand piano for Wilson Hall.

A Hoosier, Bob was born and schooled in Indianapolis. He is married and has a boy three and a half. He likes to play golf, shooting around 100.

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Vive la Francel Pasteur's Great Spirit Marches on

A Frenchman with three cats and a Pasteur-like passion for truth has challenged NIH.

It all began with an article Jean H. of Ardennes, France, read in a Paris magazine. The article quoted NIH as claiming that man alone suffers from the common cold.

Not so, said Jean. Let the experts consider the fate of my cats. And so he set forth his observations in a two-page letter to the "Institut of Bethesda."

Here is his story. In his household are three cats -- a grandmother, a mother, and a son. One day the mother cat came home with a head cold. The symptoms were clear enough. She sneezed constantly, her eyes were watery, her nose stuffed up, her appetite slight, her need for warmth pronounced.

A few days later the grandmother cat and the third generation tabby also contracted a cold -- same symptoms.

Here, Jean's predilection for clinical verity came to the fore. He slipped an aspirin into the small fry's milk, and the cold, visibly weakened, cleared up in a few days. He tried the same thing on the grandmother cat, but she would have no part of it. Her cold proved virulent.

Then Jean's wife took to her bed with a cold, and Jean followed hard on her heels. Only the family dog escaped the snuffles.

Anxious to share his findings, Jean concluded his paper with a generous offer. "Please feel free to call on me for any information you may wish to know," he advised NIH.

BANK BIRTHDAY

The Bank of Bethesda Branch at NIH this month observed its first anniversary.

Formally opened on April 10 last year, the Branch was authorized by the U. S. Treasury Department to serve NIH employees, since banking facilities were not easily available. Present for the opening day ceremonies were Mrs. Luke I. Wilson, who made the first deposit; Mr. S. Walter Bogley, President of the Bank of Bethesda; and NIH and Treasury Department officials.