SEPARATING SERUM FROM BLOOD

The above picture is part of an exhibit on virus diseases prepared by NMI for the Open House program at NIH next week. Shown at left is a blood specimen before and after centrifuging. At right, technician draws off clear serum to be sent to a diagnostic laboratory where tests for specific antibodies are made.

DR. KETY HEADS JOINT NIH RESEARCH PROGRAM

Appointment of Dr. Seymour S. Kety of the University of Pennsylvania as scientific director for the joint research program of NIMH and the new Neurological Diseases and Blindness Institute has been announced by Surgeon General Leonard A. Scheele.

Dr. Kety, 36, has been professor of clinical physiology at the University of Pennsylvania's Graduate School of Medicine since 1948. He is best known for his research on brain circulation. His work has covered a wide range that includes cerebral physiology, mechanism of anesthesia, senile dementia, and physiological aspects of such treatments for mental illness as electric and insulin shock and narco-synthesis.

In recognition of his work on measurement of blood flow and 
(See Kety Appointed, Page 3)

HEART FILM WILL BE SHOWN ON TELEVISION

"Report on the Living," a new documentary film about a young boy who almost dies from rheumatic heart disease, will be previewed on the Johns Hopkins Science Review program over the Dumont television network, Tuesday, June 12, at 8:30 p.m.

The film was produced for the Bureau of State Services, PHS, by the Documentary Company of Chicago, with the cooperation of NHI. It tells the story of the dramatic recovery of 10-year-old Richard Wood through the use of the hormonal compound, ACTH, emphasizing the experimental status of the hormones and pointing up the essential role of research.

There are no professional actors in the 27-minute film. The "real life" people who appear are the 
(See Heart Film, Page 4)

EXHIBITS READIED FOR NIH OPEN HOUSE, JUNE 22

The methods of medical science, interpreted so that laymen may understand the experimental approach to disease problems, will be demonstrated on June 22 for the hundreds of visitors expected at NIH for the laying of the cornerstone of the Clinical Center.

Scientists and their staffs will explain their work through ninety some exhibits and special demonstrations to be featured by the seven Institutes of NIH.

The Open House program will begin at 1 p.m. and continue until nine. Laboratories will close at 3 p.m. for one hour when the Clinical Center cornerstone is laid by President Truman, who will deliver the principal address.

Visitors with a special interest in civil defense will have a chance to see how radioactive contamination of food can be detected and how various medical treatments may increase chances of survival after an A-bomb explosion.

Many who are interested in water fluoridation, a project now under consideration by the District of Columbia, will want to visit NIDR, where the effects of fluoridation in reducing tooth decay in children will be demonstrated.

Viruses magnified 100,000 times by the electron microscope may be viewed at NIAMD, and at the Cancer Institute visitors may see living cells growing outside the body -- a process that enables scientists to study abnormal cells to learn wherein their abnormalities lie.

Motion pictures will be shown continuously in Wilson Hall. These will include films on mental health, heart disease, and other subjects.
Studies in Thyroid Cancer

No. 49 of a Series

Dr. Morris holds two mice in which thyroid tumors have been produced experimentally for the first time.

Like other tissues in the human body, the thyroid gland may undergo changes culminating in cancer. This gland produces internal secretions essential for normal growth in childhood and having marked influence on metabolism.

For more than six years, a group of NCI scientists directed by Dr. Harold P. Morris of the Biochemistry Section has been investigating basic aspects of thyroid tumors. The group has succeeded in producing for the first time experimental cancers of the thyroid gland in mice -- cancers that may be readily transplanted in normal animals.

A major advance in this field, the thyroid studies are providing valuable new material for experimental thyroid cancer research. They may ultimately lead to improved methods for treating thyroid cancer in humans with radioactive iodine. The development of the experimental tumors in mice occurs in several steps, according to Dr. Morris, whose associates in this work were Mrs. C. Dubnik Green and Dr. Albert J. Dalton.

The first step is to block the secretion of the thyroid gland by adding to the animal’s diet a small amount of thiouracil, a drug that may produce goiter. This upsets the normal hormonal balance because the animal tries to overcome the deficiency of the thyroid hormone circulating in the blood by increasing the secretion of another hormone, thyrotrophin, produced by the pituitary gland.

This oversecretion of thyrotrophin is believed to be accompanied by another unbalancing factor: the undersecretion of other pituitary hormones. If this imbalance continues for a long period, malignancy of the thyroid tissue, which has been transplanted for several generations, results. The work of Dr. Morris and his associates suggests that this condition stems from prolonged stimulation of thyroid tissue by the thyrotrophic hormone.

Recent initial experiments with Dr. Seymour Wollman of the Biophysics Section point to a similarity between thyroid tumors in the mouse and those in humans. It has been found that some of the mouse tumors resemble human thyroid tumors in their low ability to pick up radioactive iodine, while others show a higher attraction for it. This enables the scientist to study factors that influence the ability of thyroid tumors to concentrate administered radioactive iodine.

Here and There

Honors

Dr. Willard H. Wright, Chief of the Laboratory of Tropical Diseases, NMI, was elected to the Board of Directors of the American Foundation for Tropical Medicine and of its constituent, the Liberian Institute, which held its annual meeting recently in New York City. Two other NMI staff members, Dr. Elmer G. Berry and Dr. Thomas A. Burch, both of whom are now serving on tropical disease assignments abroad, were elected to membership in the A.F.T.M. and the Liberian Institute.

Dr. Harold W. Chalkley of NCI has been elected Secretary-Treasurer of the American Association for Cancer Research.

A.M.A. Meeting

Dr. Jesse P. Greenstein and Dr. Albert J. Dalton, NCI, are presenting papers at the June 11-15 meeting of the American Medical Association in Atlantic City. A number of other NIH staff members are attending the meeting.

R & W Picnic

A picnic for members of the Recreation and Welfare Association will be held on Wednesday, June 27, at Top Cottage, 5 p.m. Non-members who would like to attend should get in touch with their building representative. The membership fee is only a dollar.

Denver Conclave

Dr. Evan C. Horning, NHI, and Dr. William S. Fones, NCI, are attending the American Chemical Society’s June 11-15 meeting in Denver.

Music Note

NIH staff members who play the piano are invited to make their services available for 15-minute music interludes prior to the movies shown in Wilson Hall on alternate Fridays. Contact Mrs. Ernestine Gibbons, Ext. 334.

The Recreation and Welfare Association recently received a $100 donation from the Commissioned Officers Association to help pay for the grand piano in Wilson Hall.
LEUKEMIA CURE SOUGHT THROUGH PARIS CONTEST

American cancer scientists will be interested to learn that the University of Paris is offering a two-million-franc prize (about $5,700) to the researcher who nails down the answer to splenomyelogenous leukemia. Announcement of the international contest was made by the New York office of the French ambassador.

If a complete cure is not found, part of the prize money may be awarded to the scientist whose research efforts lead to substantial progress in the treatment of the disease. Leukemia of the type specified by the sponsors is commonest among adults.

The dean of the Paris Medical School, Dr. Leon Binet, is chairman of the committee that will evaluate submitted work. Candidates should send their papers to him at 12 rue de l’ecole de Medicine, Paris 6, France.

KETY APPOINTED Cont’d

oxygen consumption of the human brain, Dr. Kety won the Theobald Smith award for medical research in 1949. The award, the first given in five years, was made by the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

Dr. Kety has been special consultant in physiology to the Air Force and the Navy, and is a member of the scientific council of the National Heart Association and the research council of the United Cerebral Palsy Association. He also serves on the editorial board of the Journal of Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics.

Upon completion of the Clinical Center, the joint program which Dr. Kety will direct will have greatly expanded opportunities for both clinical and laboratory research in mental health and neurology. The Clinical Center will devote 150 of its 500 beds to neuropsychiatric cases.

Dr. Kety received his M.D. degree from the University of Pennsylvania in 1940.

NIH Record

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NIH EMPLOYEE CITED FOR WARTIME SERVICE

For patriotic civilian service in World War II, Miss Bertie E. Dawson, Personnel Branch, has been awarded a Certificate of Appreciation by the Department of the Army.

At an informal ceremony in the Pentagon, May 23, Secretary of the Army Frank Pace, Jr., presented certificates to a group of some thirty civilians who served with the Technical Industrial Intelligence Committee, set up under the Joint Chiefs of Staff in the closing year of the war. Following the presentations, General George C. Marshall, Secretary of Defense, personally congratulated each member of the group.

Miss Dawson, who is Chief of the Appointment and Performance Rating Section of NIH’s Personnel Branch, had served as chief personnel representative for TIIC, established in preparation for the surrender of Germany.

The special intelligence agency sent teams of experts into Germany after V-E Day to survey German industry and to question its scientists and top executives. Detailed reports were compiled in 19 technical fields, such as aeronautics, chemistry, machinery, metallurgy, communications, and shipbuilding.

Miss Dawson was in charge of the total personnel services for TIIC members, most of whom were leading scientific and industrial specialists recruited from private industry.

ROADWAY LIGHTING

Mr. C. W. May, Chief of the Buildings Management Branch, reports requests have been received for installation of adequate lighting at the intersection of Wisconsin Avenue and “A” road, the first entrance to NIH, approaching from Bethesda.

Provision of overhead lighting, Mr. May points out, would be very expensive, since electric current is not now available at this location. Motorists who enter the grounds after dark are urged to use the main roadway a few blocks farther down. This entrance has a traffic light and some overhead lighting.

Red Cross Bloodmobile

To Visit NIH June 20

A pint of blood from a Washington area donor can reach Korea in 50 hours. Each day a shipment, refrigerated at 40 degrees, leaves National Airport for San Francisco, collecting point for all blood shipments, expressed halfway around the world to save lives on the battlefronts of Korea.

Donors are needed daily. For whole blood, unlike plasma and other derivatives, cannot be stockpiled. And no laboratory can produce an all-purpose substitute -- nothing that will accomplish what whole blood can.

NIH employees will have a chance on Wednesday, June 20, to give blood badly needed in the field hospitals of Korea. On that day the Red Cross mobile unit will set up operations in Wilson Hall. Those who wish to donate may call Personnel Branch, Ext. 2071.

Donors and their families, the Red Cross reports, are eligible to receive free blood themselves in any hospital in the United States as well as in Washington. So from a less altruistic point of view, giving blood can be viewed as good insurance.

Forty-one blood collection centers are now being operated across the Nation by the Red Cross. Another 21 will be in business by the end of June. Some of these will be strictly defense programs, including one to be located in Baltimore.

HEART FILM Cont’d

boy, his parents, playmates, family doctor, and members of the staff of La Rabida Jackson Park Sanatorium in Chicago. Parts of the movie were made while young Dicky was a patient at the Chicago sanatorium. Other parts were re-enacted during his convalescence at home.

The Hopkins Science Review program will include a brief talk by Dr. C. J. Van Slyke, Director of NIH, on rheumatic heart disease research and the use of ACTH. Produced especially for television, “Report on the Living” will be made available later as a 16 mm, release for health information use.

HENSCHEL NAMED ASST. EXECUTIVE OFFICER

NCI Executive Officer Richard H. Henschel has been appointed Assistant Executive Officer of NIH, it was announced by Dr. William H. Sebrell, Jr., Director of NIH. He succeeds Mr. Gerald Graze, who resigned last month to enter private business after 16 years in Government service.

Mr. Henschel assumed his new duties May 28. He had been with the Cancer Institute since 1947, with responsibility for budget planning, policy review, and such administrative services as personnel, property and supply, and management analysis.

Born in Philadelphia in 1912, Mr. Henschel received his B.S. degree in economics in 1934 from Ursinus College, Collegeville, Pa., and entered Government service the same year.

He served with the Federal Housing Administration in various fiscal and administrative capacities from 1934 to 1943, when he became senior budget examiner for the Bureau of the Budget. In 1946, he was named head of the U. S. Patent Office’s Administrative Management and Budget Division, and a year later he was appointed Administrative Officer at NCI.

DR. WYCKOFF TO EUROPE

Dr. Ralph W. G. Wyckoff, Assistant Chief of the Laboratory of Physical Biology, NIAMD, will leave this week on a two-month trip to Europe.

From June 27 to July 5, he will attend the Second Assembly of the International Union of Crystallography, of which he is Vice President. He will also serve there as a representative of the National Research Council and as a voting American delegate.

Later, Dr. Wyckoff plans to inspect electron microscope installations in Holland and France and to deliver several lectures. In England, he will contribute papers at a symposium of the Faraday Society, and at a meeting on proteins to be held at the Cavendish Laboratory, Cambridge.