DR. GEORGE McCOY SUCCUMBS AT 75

Dr. George W. McCoy, Director of the Hygienic Laboratory for 22 years, died of a heart attack April 2 in Washington. He had had pneumonia for several days.

During 40 years with the Public Health Service, Dr. McCoy served as director of the U.S. Plague Laboratory at San Francisco from 1908-1911; director of the U.S. Leprosy Investigation Station in Hawaii, 1911-1915; and director of the Hygienic Laboratory (National Institute of Health), 1915-1937.

One of the Nation's top authorities on leprosy, Dr. McCoy was also widely recognized for his contributions in such fields as plague, tularemia, and psittacosis. During World War I, he supervised control of the purity and potency of viruses, serums, and antitoxins vital to the Allied armies.

After his retirement as a PHS Medical Director in 1937, Dr. McCoy became professor of preventive medicine and public health and acting dean of the Louisiana State University School of Medicine. He continued his studies of leprosy, including a Nation-wide survey of the disease. He retired in 1948 and returned to Washington.

Born in Cumberland Valley, Pennsylvania, Dr. McCoy received his medical degree from the University of Pennsylvania and his doctor of science degree from Louisiana State University.

Dr. McCoy's honors included the Sedgwick Memorial Medal of the American Public Health Association. Among other groups, he was a member of the Public Health Special Advisory Committee on Leprosy and the Standards Commission of the League of Nations. For many years he was a member of the National Board of Medical Examiners and was one-time president of the Washington Academy of Sciences.

Dr. McCoy is survived by his wife, Edith; a son, Colonel George W. McCoy, Jr.; a daughter, Mrs. John Chappelear; and six grandchildren.

1,000 EMPLOYEES INOCULATED AT NIH

Approximately 1,000 NIH employees have taken part in the immunization and blood typing program sponsored by the Employee Health Service.

The program was started not only because of the hazards existing in many areas of NIH, but also because of its general preventive health advantages in treating home and highway accidents, and civil defense emergencies.

Each person taking advantage of the service received tetanus toxoid, a purified chemical, which confers an active immunity of relatively long duration. With a booster injection of this material at the time of an injury and at specified yearly intervals, it would never be necessary to receive tetanus antitoxin, a horse serum product which may cause severe reactions.

(See Inoculations, Page 3)

A DISEASE CURED BY GOLFING & FISHING

Delegates to a recent mental health conference at the University of Michigan learned of a disease known as vernal hyperpyrexia.

Dr. Robert H. Felix, director of the National Institute of Mental Health, defined it for them. He said it causes the iron content of the blood to turn to lead and gradually settle in the lower extremities of the back.

It is the least fatal of all mankind's diseases, he added, and cures include a complete rest or a change of scenery through golf, fishing and other forms of relaxation, such as lying in the sun and watching the clouds.

Vernal hyperpyrexia, you see, is spring fever.
Chemical Action of Saliva on Enamel

No. 71 of a Series

Over 90% of dental enamel consists of calcium salts. Since the initial stage in dental caries generally involves dissolution of dental enamel, the solubility of its calcium salts in saliva may be said to be a central problem in dental research.

At the National Institute of Dental Research, Dr. Yngve Ericsson, a research fellow from Stockholm, Sweden, is conducting chemical investigations on factors influencing the solubility of these calcium salts in saliva. While at NIDR, Dr. Ericsson is working with Dr. F. J. McClure, but later in the year he will continue his work at the University of Minnesota, where he will be associated with Professor W. D. Armstrong in the Department of Physiological Chemistry.

Several other investigators in this country are now attacking the same problem from different angles and with different methods. Dr. Ericsson concentrates upon the influence of the saliva because his previous work has chiefly concerned the chemistry of the saliva, and especially because he has found the solubility conditions for calcium phosphate in the saliva quite different from the solubility found in common laboratory solutions. These conditions resemble those found in the blood and some other body fluids.

With Dr. Isadore Zipkin, Dr. Ericsson is at present studying the influence of citrates on the calcium phosphate of the saliva. It has been previously shown by Dr. McClure of NIDR that the citrate ion in a neutral solution will attack tooth surfaces, presumably by forming a soluble citrate complex with the calcium of the saliva and the enamel. Dr. Zipkin has found citrate to be a normal constituent of saliva and teeth, but the normal amount seems unrelated to dental decay.

Dr. Ericsson has engaged in experiments here on the citric acid content of saliva after the ingestion of citrate-rich fruits and beverages. His further studies will concern the influence of the citrate levels found on the calcium phosphate solubility in the saliva. This involves extensive analytical work, and Dr. Ericsson is just now engaged in experiments on a new and simplified method for calcium analysis, using chelating agents.

Hospitalization

Membership in Group Hospitalization, Inc., and Medical Services of the District of Columbia will be available to NIH employees if the established quota can be met. Results of a recent survey indicate that enough employees are interested in joining the plan.

Applications for both types of coverage are now being accepted by Group Treasurers. Contracts will be effective May 1.

This is your last chance to join this year, so contact immediately the Group Treasurers whose names you will find posted on your bulletin board.

Dr. Arnold Honored

Dr. Francis A. Arnold, Jr., Associate Director of NIDR, was installed recently as President-elect of the International Association for Dental Research. The ceremony took place at the Association's 30th General Meeting in Colorado Springs, Colo.

Captain of the Guard

On April 1, Neil K. Wood was appointed Acting Head of the Guard and Fire Protection Unit, Buildings Management Branch. Mr. Wood will be responsible for the complete operation of the guard force. His office is now in Rm. 119, Bldg. 1, and he may be reached on Ext. 417.

African Trip

Early in April, Mr. John Bozicevich of NMI's Laboratory of Tropical Diseases left for a 2-3 months' stay in Liberia. The purpose of his trip is to gather information on various tropical diseases. It is hoped that the new flocculation test devised by Mr. Bozicevich may be of value in diagnosing these diseases.

Federation Meetings

Meetings of the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology attracted 124 NIH scientists. At sessions held in New York City, April 14-18, many of our people presented papers.
CALL EXT. 384 TO GET VARIED LAB SERVICES

If you need sterile glassware, fresh food for laboratory animals, clean laundry, or that laboratory coat mended, then the Laboratory Attendant Section, LAB, is the place to contact. This group, headed by D. D. Davis, provides numerous services on an NIH-wide basis.

The glassware preparation shop is one of the busiest on the campus. Dirty glassware, collected daily from the various buildings, is taken to the basement of Bldg. 5 where it is cleaned, sterilized, wrapped and plugged.

To obtain sterile glassware, NIH laboratories must send technicians to the stockroom (Rm. 1, Bldg. 5) where they select the glassware they need. In November and December 1951, 17,000 petri dishes, 132,000 test tubes, 12,000 beakers, 13,000 flasks, and 74,000 pipettes were prepared by the Section and called for by the laboratories.

A full-time glassblower assigned to the Section repairs chipped and slightly cracked glassware. In one month 2,400 pipettes were repaired, thus saving several hundred dollars.

The Laboratory Attendant Section also sees that experimental animals at NIH are well fed. This is no little task, for it involves handling tons of kale, cabbage, horse meat, bread, milk, bananas, and other vegetables. A representative in each laboratory calls his fresh food order in to Mr. Davis before 9:15 a.m., and orders are assembled and delivered before noon.

Soiled laundry should be sent to the Section weekly. Clean laundry is returned to the laboratories on the basis of amounts turned in. A numbering system, used for identification, greatly facilitates laundry distribution.

Special operating caps, operating sheets, and other items are made by the seamstress in the Section. In addition, she repairs gowns, caps, and laboratory coats. Recently, 50 pair of booties were made to be worn over shoes by Isotope Lab visitors.

In addition to these varied services, the Laboratory Attendant Section cares for all animals in Bldg. 5, and, during week ends, animals in Bldgs. 5, 7, and parts of 4.

NIH Spotlight

Genevieve Garner

It takes a good deal of patience and perseverance to tackle a job like Mrs. Genevieve Garner has. As right hand to Mr. C. W. May, Chief of the Buildings Management Branch, Genevieve performs a variety of secretarial tasks.

If you've ever reserved one of the NIH conference rooms or Top Cottage, then you've probably talked to Mrs. Garner, for she keeps the up-to-date record of reservations. Official functions are sometimes listed weeks in advance so any conflicts in scheduling may be easily resolved.

Genevieve is also in charge of the Telephone Unit. She checks all phone bills, records of long distance calls, and problems of operation.

Since the Buildings Management Branch is responsible for the maintenance of NIH, Genevieve gets her share of usual and, sometimes, unusual requests.

"People call us for everything from light bulbs to major repairs. These are easy to handle. What really stumped us was the lady who called and asked if we had any birthday candles!"

Genevieve was born in West Virginia's Mingo County, better known as "Bloody Mingo," scene of the famous Hatfield-McCoy feuds. Her family moved to Kentucky, and Genevieve was brought up in a small town called Catlettsburg. She later attended business college in Huntington, West Virginia.

Inoculations Cont'd

It is estimated that over three-quarters of our employees are now protected, since many already had been immunized and blood-typed. Those individuals who were missed for one reason or another may still have an opportunity if they contact the Employee Health Service.

During World War II, Genevieve worked in Richmond, Virginia, for the Federal Works Agency. After she married and came to Washington, Mrs. Garner was a full-time housewife for a while. Finding that just keeping an apartment left her with too much time on her hands, she came to NIH in 1948.

"Now that we've bought a house," Genevieve says, "I don't have any spare time. My hobby is reading, but our garden is just too much competition."

Genevieve does find time, however, to participate in the GlenMar Park Citizens Association.
R & W ASSOCIATION PLANS PARTY SERIES

The NIH Recreation and Welfare Association has many parties in the offing for 1952, according to the latest plans announced at the April meeting of the Board of Directors.

The tentative schedule calls for a party every month, preferably on the first Friday of the month. Many of these parties will be held off the campus.

Friday, May 2, starts this gala program with a "circus dance" in Wilson Hall. Bob Freise, chairman, says it will be cabaret style and will feature stunts, dancing, and a chorus.

An outdoor picnic in Rock Creek Park is slated for Friday, June 6, according to chairman Carroll Clark.

Chairman Peggy Badger will arrange a beach party for Friday, July 4.

Later events scheduled are a moonlight cruise on August 1; a "scruff dance" featuring blue jeans, cider, and doughnuts on September 5; a Halloween party, October 3; a Thanksgiving party, November 7; and a Christmas party, December 5.

The Recreation and Welfare Association has also announced the names of building representatives, who may be contacted for information and membership. Chairman of the Membership Committee is Julia Rowady, Room 2314, T-6.

Bldg. 1, Jane Sundelof; Bldg. 2, Philomena Ivy; Bldg. 3, Rita Gardiner; Bldg. 4, Claire Lewerenz; Bldg. 5, Helen Wagner; Bldg. 6, Jean Royer; Bldg. 7, Nellie Brake; Bldg. 8, Frank G. Miner; Bldg. 12, W. N. Franklin; Bldg. 16, Jane Lamborn; Bldg. 16A, Eva Brooks; Bldg. T-3, Isabelle Ackerman; Bldg. T-6, Roland P. Maher; and Bldg. T-10, Robert Dettman.

Eight assistant representatives in Building T-6 are Ruth Blocher, for DRG and NIDR; Joseph McLaughlin, NINDS; Joseph Derbis, Accounting and Auditing; Lucille Dorman, Photographic Research, Mary Broughton, NMI, NIAMD, and Civil Service; Delores Mills, NCI; Alice Muth, NIMH; and Cecelia Kennedy, NHI.

POLLS NOW OPEN FOR NIH LIBRARY PRIMARY

Library users are being asked their preferences for the arrangement of journal sets in the Clinical Center.

The choices are: (1) subject segregation by classification (as at present), (2) alphabetical arrangement by direct entry (as in "Chemical Abstracts"), and (3) alphabetical arrangement by library entry (as in "Union List" and the library's catalog).

Ballots may be obtained at the library's circulation desk, Bldg. 1. Polls open today and close May 5.

NIH PLANS SECOND LAB MANUFACTURERS EXHIBIT

The Purchase and Supply Branch announced that 66 exhibitors representing 74 companies have accepted an invitation to display their equipment at NIH.

The second annual exhibit scheduled for May 20-22 will attract the latest developments of manufacturers in various scientific fields. Many of the items will be on public display for the first time.

A program of items to be exhibited is now being prepared by the Purchase and Supply Branch. The Branch will welcome suggestions from NIH scientists for additional equipment they would like to see on display.

STUDY SECTION MEETINGS

The following Study Section meetings are listed for the convenience of NIH people who wish to arrange visits with members while they are here. Unless otherwise indicated, the meetings will be held at NIH.


Note: This list will be continued in the next issue of the NIH Record.