ORIENTATION FOR NEW EMPLOYEES

An NIH orientation program, known as the Compass Course, was set in motion June 3 to provide background information useful to new employees in adapting quickly to their working environment. The employees who participate in this course are scheduled by orientation officers appointed by each Institute and major operating unit of NIH.

The Core Program, consisting of five lectures, is attended by all new personnel, including commissioned officers reporting for duty on or after May 18. Employees customarily begin this course on the day after they report for duty. Wherever possible, employees who have reported since May 1 are attending the first series.

The subjects and the faculty are: (1) the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, by Donald F. Simpson, Assistant Executive Officer, PHS; and the Public Health Service, by Dr. Victor H. Haas, NHI Director; (2) the History of NIH, by Dr. Charles Armstrong, retired NMI scientist; Present Activities at NIH, by Dr. Murray Brown, Chief of the Clinical and Professional Education Branch, CC; and the NIH Family, by James Davis, Chief of Purchase and Supply Branch; (3) the Clinical Center, by Dr. W. H. Sebrell; (4) Personnel Policies and Practices, and Services of Interest to Employees, by W. R. Schroeder, Personnel Officer, and his staff; and (5) Health Service, by Dr. John M. Lynch, Medical Officer; and Safety, by James B. Black, Safety Officer.

Additional special conferences are arranged for commissioned officers and for clerical and administrative personnel, and clinical investigators and others with medical care responsibilities are attending clinical conferences.

NEUROLOGY SEMINAR SERIES BEGUN BY NINDB

The National Institute of Neurological Diseases and Blindness inaugurated a ten-month series of seminars in neurophysiology and neuroanatomy June 2. The series will be given every Tuesday from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m., in Conference Room A of the Stone House.

These seminars will be conducted by Dr. G. Milton Shy, Chief of Clinical Research, and Dr. Maitland Baldwin, Chief of Neurosurgery, both of NINDB. The lectures, on a postgraduate level, are a part of the training program for resident clinicians in neurology, and will be attended by residents in the local area as well as those in the Clinical Center. All other interested persons are invited to the seminars.

A list of the topics for discussion in the series through March 23, 1954, can be obtained by calling Theresa Hammond, on Extension 782.

THIRD STRAIN OF POLIO VIRUS ADAPTED TO MICE

The Public Health Service announced recently that two of its research scientists have adapted to growth in experimental mice the third of the three known strains of polio virus--Brunhilde.

The discovery was the work of Dr. C. P. Li and Dr. Morris Schaeffer, both of the CDC Virus and Rickettsia Laboratory in Montgomery, Ala. It was made possible by the combination of two virological techniques, the tissue-culture method and the intraspinal inoculation.

In 1939 Dr. Charles Armstrong of NMI adapted the Lansing strain of polio virus to mice. Not until 1951 did PHS workers succeed, in two steps, in transferring the Leon strain to mice. The first step was made at NMI, by Dr. Karl Habel and Dr. Li, and the second step--a further perfection--was made at CDC by Dr. Li and Dr. Schaeffer.
Answers to some of man's questions about the role of heredity in the production of cancer are being provided in research on mice, by Dr. Walter E. Heston, head of the General Biology Section in NCI's Laboratory of Biology.

Mouse studies by many scientists suggest that various types of cancer in man can be subject to hereditary influences, so that under certain conditions the hereditary constitution of the individual may be the deciding factor in whether the individual develops a certain type of cancer.

The mouse provides the best approach to the study of this problem, because the functions of its system resemble the human's and because it develops a wide variety of tumors.

By managing the distribution of genes, the carriers of hereditary traits, in the development of inbred strains of mice, and by crossbreeding strains, geneticists have been able to alter the occurrence of more different types of cancer than have other investigators with any other group of agents.

One of the first questions to be answered by data from studies of these mice is whether a general susceptibility to cancer is inherited. The fact that the strains are susceptible to specific types of cancer, and that almost no strain of mice is resistant to all types, indicates that the various types of cancer are inherited in mice as independent characteristics.

Apparently cancers are inherited as multiple genetic factors, Dr. Heston believes; but the combination of hereditary and nonhereditary factors is so complex that, with rare exceptions, we cannot look into family histories and predict accurately the probability that an individual will get cancer.

Much has been done with mice in revealing the additive relation between genetic and nongenetic factors and the relative importance of each in the development of tumors. This has been demonstrated most clearly in lung tumors in mice. Under usual conditions, 90 percent of strain A mice will develop lung tumors within 18 months of age, but when the powerful carcinogen dibenzanthracene is injected, 100 percent develop lung cancers within 6 weeks.

One of the more recent developments in investigations of breast tumors in mice concerns tumors that occur in the absence of the milk agent, which have been studied extensively by the Genetics Unit. In some strains of mice, the application of carcinogens is required to bring out a large number of these tumors, but in one strain (C3HF) an incidence of 38 percent was observed in untreated females at an average age of 20 months. Biologically, the tumors that arise in the absence of the milk agent may be more comparable with breast cancer in humans than those arising with the milk agent.
MENTAL HEALTH FUND DRIVE LAUNCHED HERE

It is not too late to add your contribution to the Mental Health Fund drive, which closes June 12, announces Lyman Moore, NIMH executive officer and chairman of the campaign. Mental illnesses constitute one of the most serious public health problems today, and the burden of mental illness is costing the taxpayers approximately $1 billion each year.

If you have not received a pledge card as yet, contact the keyman in your Institute. The keymen are Lucille Bouvet, OD; Delores Urban, Purchase and Supply; Barbara Diehl, CC; Hanford Moxley, NHI; Dr. Leonard Fenninger, NCI; Camelia Joy, NIAMD; Linden Neff, NIDR; Dr. Walter Friedlander, NINDB; Lawrence Davis, NMI; Dr. Byron Brunstetter, DRG; and Mary Lou McVicker, NIMH.

MRS. HOPE NORRIS RETIRES FROM NIH

Mrs. Hope F. Norris, head of the Library's Translating Unit, retired from Government service on May 29.

Mrs. Norris first came to NIH in 1939, and for several months, beginning in September 1941, she was NIH's only translator. Since then, the Translating Unit, under her supervision, has grown to a staff of 14, capable of translating scientific documents, letters, and speeches in 24 languages. Mrs. Norris can translate all of these 24 languages herself, with the exception of Japanese and Chinese. Since 1945, over 5,000 major translations have been completed by the Unit.

Mrs. Norris received her Bachelor's and Master's degrees from James Milliken University in Decatur, Illinois. Before coming to NIH, she taught in James Milliken University, West Virginia Wesleyan University, and several Texas high schools, and did research work for a newspaper information service. She also worked as a free-lance writer during her "traveling days," when she lived in Mexico, Texas, and the Dominican Republic.

Her husband, Dr. Fred W. Norris, who is employed by the Food and Drug Administration, is retiring at the same time, and they plan to tour through Oregon and California before settling in Texas.

NIH Spotlight

For Malcolm B. Melroy, better known to his friends as Ben, all roads lead to NIH and to the Argyle Country Club golf course. Ben, a bacteriologist in NCI, estimates that he hasn't missed more than 2 or 3 week ends of golf in a year, summer or winter, rain or shine.

Ben first came to NIH in 1938 and was "right-hand man" for Dr. Roscoe R. Spencer in the Cell Adaptation Unit of the Biology Section until February of 1952. Together they worked on studies of the process of cell survival and adaptations in single-cell organisms and the relation of this process to cancer. Since Dr. Spencer's retirement, Ben has been working with Dr. Morris K. Barrett in the Gastric Cancer and Tumor Immunity Unit, and is studying fundamental aspects of tissue transplantation. Here he draws on his knowledge of serological techniques in determining what serologic changes in animals or tissues may be correlated with other obvious biological changes.

Ben was born and grew up in Washington, New Jersey. He left home to attend the University of Maryland, where he obtained his B.S. and M.S. degrees. After short stints as a bacteriology professor at Maryland and as a bacteriologist for the U. S. Veterans' Bureau in Baltimore, he began his career with the Public Health Service when he joined the staff of the PHS Dispensary in Washington in 1930.

The Army interrupted his work at NCI from 1942 to 1946. For the first two-year stretch, Ben was stationed at El Paso and New Orleans. For the following two years, he was sent with a large general hospital unit to England, where he served as director of a clinical laboratory. Here he took every possible opportunity to see the sights in many parts of the British Isles. He is proud of the collection of china he was able to buy wholesale from English manufacturers. After retiring from the Army as a major, Ben resumed his career at NCI.

In addition to golf (he modestly admits to being a "slightly better than average player," by the way), Ben is fond of fishing and puttering around his home in Washington, D. C.

R & W NOTES

The next event on the social calendar of the NIH Recreation and Welfare Association is a picnic to be held in the latter part of June. Top Cottage will be the scene of the affair, which will be similar to the one held last year.

Chairman Peggy Badger, NHI, is planning tempting refreshments and relaxing games to highlight the occasion. She is keeping the menu a secret, but hints that the fare will appeal to the entire family. The fun starts immediately after work, but, for the convenience of those who plan to pick up guests, supper will be served around 6:00 p.m.

Tickets go on sale this week. You can get yours from your division representative.

NMI has elected Dr. George A. Hottle as division representative on the Executive Council of the Association.

The NIH Softball Team is off to a good start in league competition, having won all of their league games in the first half. The team hopes that a few more spectators from NIH will turn out for some of their games. They play at Rock Creek diamond #1, near 16th and Kennedy Streets, NW.

Some of the District Recreation League opponents on NIH's schedule are Bureau of National Affairs, June 9; General Electric, June 16; Capital Radio Engineering Institute, June 23; Arcade Sunshine, July 2; and Wonder Bread, July 9. All games are set for 6:00 p.m., except that of June 23, which starts at 7:00 p.m.
HAMSTERS TO PRESENT ONE-ACT PLAY SERIES JUNE 10-12

The NIH Hamsters have turned their talents to a new experiment in which they hope all personnel will participate. "Life at NIH" proved successful for three consecutive years, but this year something new has been added. The Hamsters are trying their hand at "Three Slices of Life Outside NIH," as an interim production for 1953, while the Clinical Center stage is still under construction.

The first "Slice of Life" is provided by "The Florist Shop," a one-act play by Winifred Hawkridge, directed by Tod Triem. You may believe, as we've all hopefully been told, that marriages are made in Heaven. But, 'tain't necessarily so. The possibilities of violence, romance, pathos, and bathos are sentimentally explored in this hilarious little comedy.

"Fumed Oak, An Unpleasant Comedy in Two Scenes," directed by Sue Oliver, is Noel Coward at his funniest and most bitter best. If you've never actually seen the worm bite the robin, you'll enjoy every line as the Hamsters bring this news item to life, giving it the full, authentic Coward treatment.

The final presentation, "Dots and Dashes," a comedy written by Gordon Alderman and directed by Rosalie Kasaba, deals with the things that can happen in a bus station on a hot day. It is guaranteed to make you feel you are missing some of the funnier aspects of the American scene if you travel any other way.

These one-act plays will be presented on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday nights, June 10, 11, and 12 in Wilson Hall. Curtain is promptly at 8:30. Tickets, at 50 cents plus tax, are available from your Recreation and Welfare Association division representatives. As you know, the seating capacity in Wilson Hall is limited, so try to buy the tickets for your family and guests as soon as possible.

The newly elected R & W division representatives are: OD, Mrs. Clydís Jones; Buildings Management and Laboratory Aids, Mrs. Clara Lebling; DRG, Dr. Ronald Scantlebury; NCI, Dr. Gilcin Meadors; NIAMD, Erv Liljegren; NMI, Dr. George Hottle; NHI, Mrs. Jean Walton; NIDR, Linden Neff; NIH, Miss Elsie Hoffmeister; NIMH, Miss Elsie Hoffmeister; NINDS, Harold Tager; and Clinical Center, Irene Dixson.