CBS FEATURES NIH, CLINICAL CENTER

On July 4 the Columbia Broadcasting System carried a recorded interview about NIH and the Clinical Center in the series, "Washington, USA," to its 108-station network. The series, featuring interviews by Don Hollenbeck, deals generally with the work of various Federal agencies.

During the half-hour program, Surgeon General Leonard A. Scheele and Dr. W. H. Sebrell answered Mr. Hollenbeck's questions about the research programs of the Public Health Service and how the Clinical Center will operate. Dr. Paul White of Boston, a member of the National Advisory Heart Council, also was interviewed concerning the extramural research program supported by PHS grants.

CORTISONE AVAILABLE FOR RESEARCH STUDIES

A limited supply of radioactive cortisone and hydrocortisone is now available without charge to qualified investigators through funds supplied by NIAMD. Both are labeled at position 4 with C14. Written requests describing the proposed research will be sent to the Division of Research Grants. Transfer and use of these materials are subject to current Atomic Energy Commission regulations.

Preparation of the hormones was guided by a committee composed of Drs. T. F. Gallagher of the Sloan-Kettering Institute for Cancer Research, Gregory Pincus of the Worcester Foundation for Experimental Biology, Max Tishler of Merck and Co., and Sam Hall, Executive Secretary of the Endocrinology Study, NIH. The Study Section, with Dr. (See Cortisone, Page 3)

ANNUAL LEAVE REGULATIONS AMENDED

On July 2 President Eisenhower signed a bill which amended the Federal Employees Leave Act. The "Thomas Leave Rider," which required that Federal employees use leave accumulated in 1952 by June 30, 1953, was repealed, and changes were made in regulations concerning maximum leave accumulations, date of the leave year, lump-sum payments for leave, transfer of leave, and coverage of the act. The following is a question-and-answer summary of the Amendment taken from the DHEW Regional and Field Letter.

Q. What is the maximum amount of leave that a Federal employee can accumulate?
A. Overseas employees, except Foreign Service personnel, can accumulate up to 45 days. Other employees can accumulate up to 30 days. Previously, the maximum was 90 days for overseas employees and 60 days for the others.

Q. Will an employee who legally carried over to 1953 more than the new maximum lose the excess?
A. No. The amount of leave he carried over is his maximum until he reduces it. For instance, a person who carried over 50 days to 1953 may carry over 50 days next year. But if he uses all of this year's leave plus 5 days during the year, he may carry over 45 days. Forty-five days becomes his new ceiling.

Q. Is an employee who has more than the new maximum obliged to reduce his accumulation?
A. Yes. The law directs the heads of agencies to take action to reduce maximum accumulations until they are within the legal limits.

Q. Has the leave rider requiring Federal employees to use, by June 30, 1953, all the annual leave earned in 1952 been repealed?
A. Yes. The rider was superseded by the new amendment effective June 29, 1953.
Electroencephalography is the science of recording and interpreting the changes of electrical potential in the brains of organisms, human and sub-human. The science had its practical origin with the work of Dr. Hans Berger of Germany in the early 1920's. Progress was relatively slow until the development of modern electronic refinements, and within the past ten to fifteen years great strides have been made.

Current technique consists in placing tiny electrodes on the scalp of the patient with a paste, which acts as an electrical conductor. The brain voltages are minute, so the electroencephalograph itself is a series of amplifiers, designed to magnify these voltages and transmit them to an in-writing oscillograph, which records the voltage fluctuations on a moving strip of paper. This record is then interpreted and gives some information regarding the activity of the brain, not in terms of thoughts and feelings, but rather neuronal functioning.

Direct clinical value is made of the brain waves as an aid in the diagnosis of convulsive disorders, brain tumours, brain abscesses, and the like, and in neurosurgical procedures where recordings are made during surgery.

Research use of the EEG is great in that it may provide information regarding association fibres from area to area in the brain, and give clues as to the physiological functioning of deep brain structures.

For better understanding of the abnormal, it is well to have a supply of information regarding the normal. Hence, the staff of the Electroencephalography Laboratory, NINDB, has requested volunteers from NIH to take this test, in order that it may build a library of normal records. To date, approximately 150 NIH employees have so volunteered, for which Dr. Lawrence Frost, head of the laboratory, is most grateful. Although the group is small, the findings compare favorably with those of other laboratories on similar normal groups.

Since the EEG Laboratory at NIH is a service laboratory, as well as a section of NINDB, records will be made here for all of the NIH institutes. Concurrently, research projects peculiar to EEG will be conducted.

Here and There

Speech Clinic

An Institute on teaching and improving esophageal speech will be held August 10-16 at the Cleveland (Ohio) Hearing and Speech Center. This second institute on voice pathology is being sponsored by the American Cancer Society, the National Cancer Institute, the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation, the Cleveland Otolaryngological Society, the Cleveland Academy of Medicine, and the Western Reserve University School of Medicine.

Surgeons, speech pathologists, and lay persons are invited to attend the sessions.

Trips and Talks

Dr. James M. Hundley, Chief of NIAMD's Laboratory of Biochemistry and Nutrition, gave a talk entitled "Importance of Nutrition" July 6 at the Nutrition Workshop of the University of Kentucky.

Dr. Hundley will also present a talk, "Eat to Live Longer and Be Healthier," July 30 at the Institute of Rural Affairs at Blacksburg, Va.

Credit Union

Members of the NIH Credit Union who did not have their books audited in February are asked to send their passbooks to Room 101A, Building 1, enclosing a return interoffice envelope.

Reminder

During the summertime, many cars are observed in the parking lots with leaking gas tanks--creating a hazard to themselves and to all adjacent vehicles. If your car has a full tank and you park on a sloping surface, remember to have the gas tank cap on the high side of the slope.

Vacation Plans

An interesting array of travel folders graces a table in the Personnel Branch in Building 10. If you are undecided where you would like to spend your vacation, you're sure to find the ideal spot described in these booklets.

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HAMSTERS ELECT NEW OFFICERS FOR 1953-54

The Hamsters recently held election of officers for the 1953-54 season. Dr. Byron J. Olson was elected chairman; Rosalie Kasaba, secretary; Hazel Rea, treasurer; and William C. White, caretaker. The new Executive Board members are Ruth Gorin, Susan Oliver, and Dorothy Triem.

The Hamsters are looking forward to a busy year, with another "Life at NIH" production, planned to be given in the new Clinical Center auditorium, and the possibility of some radio and TV spots in the not-too-distance future. If you can write skits, lyrics, or music; sing, dance, or act; play a musical instrument, design sets, or do makeup, don't wait to be asked to join.

TRAFFIC PROBLEMS INCREASE AT NIH

Traffic jams are occurring with increasing frequency at the NIH exit on Old Georgetown Road, since many more NIH employees are using this convenient route. A Montgomery County policeman is posted daily at this intersection between 5:00 and 5:15 p.m., unless emergencies arise requiring his services elsewhere.

The traffic situation could be eased considerably if NIH motorists would observe the traffic lanes painted on the roadway. Those wishing to make a left turn, who are in the majority, should keep to the inside lane all the way from the Clinical Center to the intersection. This would relieve congestion and enable those turning right to drive up to the intersection in the curb-side lane. Many drivers have been straddling the lanes, preventing other cars from passing.

CORTISONE Cont’d

Charles B. Huggins as Chairman, has administered the program.

Synthesis of these ring-labeled compounds was an international cooperative effort. The Atomic Energy Commission supplied the radiocarbon. Charles E. Frosst and Company of Montreal biosynthesized the hydrocortisone.

Hazel Rea, NIMH, has the unique honor of holding the purse strings of two NIH employee organizations -- the Recreation and Welfare Association and the Hamsters. In addition to this double responsibility, the versatile and capable Hazel serves on the R & W committee for investigating the Clinical Center concessions and has taken an active part in the last two Hamster productions.

Hazel came to NIH in 1949 as secretary to the executive officer of NIMH, and, in February of 1952, she became chief of the Miscellaneous Services Unit. As such, she is responsible for the performance of a wide variety of administrative tasks. She keeps files of the NIMH training and research grant applications, which she assembles for review by the various consulting groups. She makes all physical arrangements for the meetings of these groups, which include the National Advisory Mental Health Council, the Mental Health Study Section, and the Training Committee. In addition, Hazel is supervisor of the NIMH typing pool, acts as property custodian for the Institute, supervises purchase requisitioning, and handles details of space and telephone assignments.

Hazel grew up and went to school in Fort Smith, Arkansas. She worked in a bank in Little Rock, Ark., until 1935, when she took a Civil Service examination and moved to Washington. She worked as a secretary in the Loans and Currency Division of the Treasury Department for a year, and then became secretary to the Assistant Director of the Bureau of Old-Age and Survivors Insurance in the newly formed Social Security Administration.

Married in 1938, Hazel stopped working for nine years and devoted her time to being a housewife and mother. During this period she was active in community projects, including the subscription drive for the Suburban Hospital, Community Chest, and Red Cross work. When her daughter, Ruth, now 11 years old, started school, Hazel decided to take up her career again.

She has been active in both the R & W and the Hamsters since she came to NIH, and through them has been able to put her love of dancing to use. She was dance director for the Hamsters' 1952 production and has arranged numbers for several of the R & W dances. In the Hamsters' last series of plays, "Three Slices of Life Outside NIH," she served as production manager. This involved collecting the plays' properties and scenery on loan from Bethesda merchants and procuring with the materials at hand.

Outside of her NIH working hours and her jobs with R & W and the Hamsters, Hazel finds little time for her community work. Her spare time is now taken up running her Chevy Chase home for her husband and daughter.
Announcement of the special film program beginning in September to be sponsored by the Recreation and Welfare Association has met with an enthusiastic response from NIH employees. The Association has limited subscriptions to 450 persons, reserving the remaining block of approximately fifty seats for the use of Clinical Center patients. Miss Kathryn P. Mains of NMI, Secretary of the Cinema Series Committee, announced that the quota of 450 persons was met on July 14, just eight days after the notices were distributed. She received $200 in cash subscriptions the first day.

The Committee decided to accept names of additional subscribers until the announced closing date of July 20 and, if the number warrants it, a second showing of the films will be arranged. If not, subscriptions will be returned.

The Garden Committee of the R & W Association announces the names of the 1953 prize winners are Dr. Victor Haas, $10; Ken Brown, $5; and Dr. Raymond F. Kaiser, $3. The gardens were inspected July 18 by Dr. R. E. Scantlebury of DRG, Chairman, and his committee -- Ken Brown of NMI, Donald Snow of CC, and Dr. William Thorp of LAB. Prizes are awarded on the basis of neatness and utilization of ground.

EMPLOYEES COMPLETE NIH GERMAN CLASSES

Dr. Erich Mosetting of NIAMD has completed his second year conducting weekly refresher classes in advanced German for NIH employees. Those who attended during 1951-52 were Mrs. Alma L. Hayden, NIAMD; Mrs. Priscilla Maury and Dr. Edwin D. Murphy, NCI; Drs. Rex A. Neihof and William R. Nes, NIAMD; Dr. Byron J. Olson, NNI; Mrs. Rodney A. Olson, Yoshio Sato, and Irving Scheer, NIAMD; and Dr. Edmund J. Talbott, NMI.

Students in the 1952-53 classes were Paul J. Berner, Jr., NIAMD; James Fearn, NCI; William Himel, OD; Miss Mary Irene Knoller, NHI; Mrs. Priscilla Maury and Dr. Edwin D. Murphy, NCI; Mrs. William R. Nes, Yoshio Sato, and Irving Scheer, NIAMD; and Edward F. Stohman, NIAMD.

NIH SOFTBALL TEAM LEADS IN TWO LEAGUES

The NIH Softball Team is justifiably proud of its 1953 record, which at the present writing counts 19 wins and 3 losses. The team is now leading the Montgomery County Softball League and is tied for first place in the District Athletic League. Last year, the team won 35 out of 38 games and carried off the District League Championship.

Part of the team is shown here. Back row, left to right, are Britton Smith, R & W Softball Chairman; Joe Summerour, 2d B; Ken Clipper, LF; Herbert Holsey, 1st B; Frank Shaw, RF; Bruce Hill, CF; Dr. Gordon Seger, President of R & W; and Bucky Stull, 2d B. Front row: Bill Foster, C; Pervis Summerour, 3d B; Sam Umberger, C; Charlie Evans, P; and Clarence Isreal, Manager.

Other players not pictured above are Enrico Dileonibus, P; Elwood Lyles, P; Thomas South, P; Andrew Perry, 1st B; Bob Padgett, SS; William Williams, 2d B; William Waters, 3d B; Phil Delozier, CF; George Mitchell, CF; William Powell, RF; Stanley Ward, LF; Bud Gardiner, RF; Donald Howard, 2d B; and Edward Carter, SS.