NEW BUS SERVICE PLANNED FOR NIH

The Capital Transit Company has applied to the Public Service Commission of Maryland for authority to extend their bus route T-8 (Alta Vista - Wisconsin and Western) into the NIH campus. The re-routing will be effective August 23, 1953, for a six-months trial period.

Present plans call for routing the buses north on Old Georgetown Road into "A" Road, then north to a stopover point on West Drive, out West Drive to Locust Lane, to Alta Vista Road, to Old Georgetown Road, and then back to the District Line. This schedule will run until 4 p.m. each weekday.

In the evenings from 4 p.m. on, the routing will be reversed with the buses proceeding north on Old Georgetown Road to Alta Vista Road, then south on Locust Lane and south on West Drive, with a stopover and boarding point on West Drive just off "A" Road. The buses will then proceed west on "A" Road to Old Georgetown Road and return to the District Line.

New timetables will be distributed to all NIH employees.

EMPLOYEES ORIENTATION PROGRAM SUCCESSFUL

The NIH orientation program initiated June 3 has been well received by the new employees, approximately 260, who have attended the sessions. The program, known as the Compass Course, is designed to provide background information useful to new employees in adapting quickly to their new working environment. Comments of the students indicate that they have found the lectures interesting and informative.

The Compass Course is now being given every two weeks, with the sixth series scheduled to begin today. About sixty employees were enrolled in the fifth series, a few of them being employees already at NIH, who were included for the first time. Some additional NIH employees will be fitted into the program whenever possible.

EMPLOYEES CONTRIBUTE TO PATIENTS' LIBRARY

Approximately 400 books and magazines were contributed to the Clinical Center Patients' Library by NIH personnel in response to a memorandum circulated by the Recreation and Welfare Association.

The collection included a number of "best-sellers," pocket-sized adventure and mystery stories, and a large selection of recent copies of popular magazines. In addition, the Montgomery County Public Library lent NIH an excellent selection of ninety books. The patients' response to the library has been enthusiastic and grateful.

The present setup will provide reading matter on an informal basis until the regular Patients' Library starts operating in the fall. The services of a full-time staff will be a part of the therapeutic program.
Milking the poison gland of a tropical toad (Bufo marinus) used in the study of serotonin, an important body substance associated with hypertension. The venom is used also in the analysis of the biological formation of certain other substances which affect the cardiovascular system. Carroll T. Clark and Dr. Sidney Udenfriend are shown collecting venom from the large neck gland of the toad.

The parent substance of serotonin, the potent constrictor of blood vessels, is the amino acid tryptophan, which can be converted to serotonin by enzymes in the kidney and liver.

A new amino acid (5-hydroxytryptophan) was discovered during this study and found to be the first step in the metabolic conversion of tryptophan. Tryptophan is in normal proteins contained in any average diet. Serotonin is present in many body tissues and is associated with hypertension.

Steps in the conversion of tryptophan, and the new amino acid, were discovered by Dr. Sidney Udenfriend, Carroll T. Clark, and Dr. Elwood Titus of the Laboratory of Chemical Pharmacology, NHI.

Since the existence of serotonin has been known for only a few years, there is still a great deal of mystery about what it does and how it is made.

In whatever way the substance is tested, scientists find that serotonin is an extremely powerful vasoconstrictor. It can so diminish the blood supply of the kidneys that the flow of urine is practically cut off.

Work on the problem has gone in many directions. The investigators are now working on how serotonin is made in the body, where it is formed, how, and where it is destroyed. Now that they have established the identity of a new amino acid, they will try to isolate the substance in sufficient quantities to purify.

While potent, serotonin occurs in small amounts in mammalian tissues so that other animals were investigated. Tropical toads were found by this group to be excellent for these studies. A certain species of toad, Bufo marinus, secretes large quantities of a venom rich in serotonin, a digitalis-like substance, and adrenalin. Not only is the venom stored in the large neck gland, which can be milked frequently, but it is also present in the wart-like protuberances over the entire skin.

Here and There

Publication

Dr. Jesse P. Greenstein of NCI, and Dr. Alexander Haddow, Director of the Chester Beatty Research Institute in London, are the editors of the new book, "Advances in Cancer Research, Vol. I." The volume, published by the Academic Press of New York City, is a collection of reviews in ten lines of fundamental cancer investigation. All but two of them deal with some aspect of carcinogenesis.

In the volume, for example, L. Dmochowski brings up to date the work on the milk agent in the origin of mammary tumors in mice. Another contributor is R. J. C. Harris, who describes studies on the Rous virus. W. U. Gardner gives a résumé of data on hormonal aspects of experimental tumorigenesis, while A. Tannenbaum and H. Silverstone review nutrition in relation to cancer. Another contributor, R. J. Winzeler, presents the subject of plasma proteins in cancer.

The first volume in this series of publications is of interest for all cancer investigators, as well as for laboratories of biochemistry, endocrinology, virology, and radiology.

Hospitalization

In response to the recent membership drive of Group Hospitalization, Inc., 173 NIH employees subscribed to the Hospital Service Plan, and 164 to the Surgical Service Plan.

Softball

James B. Black, NIH Safety Officer, hopes that noonday ball players will take their exercise with more moderation in the future.

NIH officials have always favored mild exercise, but not the strenuous variety that accounted for 28 injuries last season, including a dozen fractures and sprains. Lost time from work for treatment of these injuries was the equivalent of 58 visits to the Employee Health Service and seven trips to the PHS Out-Patient Clinic.

N. I. H. RECORD

Published by
Scientific Reports Branch
National Institutes of Health
Room 21-C, Building 1
Bethesda 14, Maryland
OLiver 4-1400 Ext. 2125
USDA GRADUATE SCHOOL ANNOUNCES CLASSES

The U. S. Department of Agriculture Graduate School opens its 33d year on September 21. Registration will be from September 12-19 in the Patio of the Agriculture Building.

Whether you are a high school or college graduate, the Graduate School has courses for you. Even if you have not completed high school, there are certain courses that you may take. Copies of the Fall Schedule of Classes are available in the Personnel Office in Building 10. For detailed information or assistance in selecting courses, consult Miss Sullivan, the Registrar, at the Graduate School.

The subjects are diversified and offer a wide range in the biological, physical, and social sciences, mathematics and statistics, public administration, office techniques and operations, and languages and literature. Additional technical courses are offered in engineering, surveying and mapping, architecture and drafting, fine arts and photography.

FURTHER QUESTIONS ON LEAVE ANSWERED

The NIH Record continues in this issue the question-and-answer summary of the new amendment to the Federal Employees Leave Act.

Q. When does the current leave year end?
A. It ends on January 2, 1954. However, January 2, 1954 falls on a Saturday, which is a nonwork day for most employees.

Q. What is the advantage to an employee of postponing the end of the leave year for one pay period?
A. This postponement enables an employee to use the Christmas holiday period, a time when many people like to take leave, for the purpose of taking excess leave.

Q. What change has been made in the provisions relating to lump-sum payments?
A. The new amendment limits lump-sum payments to pay for 30 days’ leave or pay for the amount of leave carried forward at the end of the previous leave year (the employee’s ceiling), whichever is larger. This provision is not effective until after August 31, 1953, and will therefore not affect employees who leave the Federal service before that date.

The educational interests of Dorothy Leimbach, NIAMD, have gone in two directions. Slender, brunette Dorothy acquired her degree in biology from the Pembroke College in Brown University in 1945. Two years later she married, and in order to keep pace with her lawyer husband, she attended the George Washington University Law School for a year and a half. Science won out over law, however, and Dorothy came to NIH as a biologist in NIAMD’s Laboratory of Chemistry.

Her present job, in the Section on Analgesics under the supervision of Dr. Nathan B. Eddy, involves assisting in a series of tests on mice to determine the effectiveness of the analgesics, or "painkilling" drugs. If the drug in question proves to be effective, it is then tested for toxicity, prior to clinical investigation.

Dorothy grew up in Niantic, Connecticut, a small town outside New London, Conn., where she attended high school. While attending Brown University, she got her first taste of laboratory work in serving as laboratory assistant for her comparative anatomy and genetics professors. After graduation, she got a job as a research assistant for the Children's Hospital Research Foundation in Cincinnati, Ohio. Here she participated in experimental embryology studies, observing the offspring of rats which had been fed diets deficient in specified vitamins.

After her marriage, Dorothy came to Washington and while attending law school, she became an active member of the D. C. League of Women Voters. Later, for a year and a half, she was Assistant Hospital Claims Examiner for the Group Health Association. In August of 1951, she started her present job at NIH.

Outside of working hours, Dorothy keeps busy with her Connecticut Avenue apartment and a variety of interests. She enjoys bicycle riding and aquaplaning, and hopes some day to try water skiing. She maintains her interest in law through her legal sorority, Kappa Beta Pi. She likes to travel, and last summer she went on an extended two-months tour of Europe, covering England, France, Italy, and Switzerland.

NIH Spotlight

Dorothy Leimbach

Membership in the Recreation and Welfare Association has reached a new high, according to Jane Sundelof of Personnel, membership chairman. She has tallied 1,020 members so far this year, compared to 827 for 1952.

Mrs. Frances Kennedy of BMB is the division representative for both Buildings Management and Laboratory Aids Branches, replacing Mrs. Clara N. Lebling, who has left NIH.

About 23 prospective chess players have indicated their interest in joining an NIH Chess Club, to be sponsored by the Recreation and Welfare Association. If any other employees would like to join the group, call Joe Woodworth of Purchase and Supply Branch, on Extension 755.

The NIH Softball Team is still making a nice showing in both leagues. The team will enter the District Recreation League playoffs August 20. They will also be eligible for the finals in the Montgomery County playoffs, if they won the game August 6.

BANK TELLER INJURED

In case you have wondered about the whereabouts of Mrs. Marion Johnson, one of the regular tellers in NIH’s branch of the Bank of Bethesda, she is in Suburban Hospital as the result of a serious accident. On July 12, the day after she began her vacation, Mrs. Johnson tripped on a rug in her home and fractured her pelvic bone. At this writing, she is still in traction and confined to the hospital.

Women Voters. Later, for a year and a half, she was Assistant Hospital Claims Examiner for the Group Health Association. In August of 1951, she started her present job at NIH.
MISS GOMBERT FETED AT FAREWELL LUNCH

Miss Evelyn Gombert of the Clinical Center Nursing Department was the guest of honor at a farewell luncheon given July 22 at the Officers' Club of the National Naval Medical Center. Evelyn has been here since 1948 assigned to NIMH, RFPB, and the Clinical Center, where she was Assistant Chief, Education and Training, Nursing Department.

On September 1, Evelyn will assume the post of Director of Nurses at the Children's Hospital after a month's vacation.

STENOGRAPHIC COURSE

Twenty-five NIH secretaries will be selected to take a shorthand refresher course, which is designed to bring their dictation speed up to approximately 100 words per minute. It will include a review of scientific terminology. The classes will be held every day of the week, September 21 to October 16.