NEW ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR NAMED

PHS Surgeon General Leonard A. Scheele recently confirmed that Dr. Joseph Smadel of Walter Reed Army Medical Center will join the NIH staff as Associate Director for Intramural Research. Dr. Smadel will fill the position left open when Dr. James A. Shannon was appointed NIH Director on August 1. Dr. Smadel will assume his new post on May 1, 1956.

One of the Nation’s leading authorities on virus and rickettsial diseases, Dr. Smadel is currently Director of the Division of Communicable Diseases and Chief of the

(See Smadel, Page 4)

PHS NURSING SERVICES WINS LASKER AWARD

The Albert Lasker Award trophy presented last month to the Nursing Services of the U. S. Public Health Service was displayed during a reception for NIH nurses held in the Clinical Center Board Room on December 5. Mrs. Lucile Petry Leone, Chief Nurse Officer of PHS, explained the citation to visitors.

The Nursing Services was one of three group winners of the 1955 Albert Lasker Awards for Medical Research, which are given annually to acknowledge research or other contributions in medicine and public health. The award cited Mrs. Leone and the Misses Pearl McIver and Margaret Arnstein, of PHS, for

"distinguished contributions to the advancement and well-being of the nation through their leadership."

Presentation of the award was made at the 83rd annual meeting of the American Public Health Association in Kansas City, Mo.

Surgeon General Leonard A. Scheele, in a congratulatory letter to PHS nurses stationed in all parts of the world, quoted the award citation which stated that "the Nursing Services of the U. S. Public Health Service...has made notable contributions to the advancement of the well-being of this country through leadership in public health nursing and through studies and research in the manifold fields of nursing."
Metabolism of Epileptogenic Brain Tissue
No. 153 in a Series

In a current NINDS project the metabolic behavior of epileptogenic and nonepileptogenic brain tissue have been found to differ radically. The defects found in epileptogenic tissue may be rectified by two naturally occurring substances.

Biochemical studies on epileptogenic brain tissue are being conducted in the Clinical Neurochemistry Section of the Medical Neurology Branch by Dr. Donald B. Tower, assisted by Dr. William C. Curtis, Dr. Charles E. Wells, Edmund L. Peters, and John Phoenix.

Samples of tissue for study are obtained from patients during surgery for excision of focal cortical epileptogenic lesions. The samples are rated by established criteria in cooperation with Dr. Maitland Baldwin, neurosurgeon, and Dr. C. Ajmone-Marsan, electroencephalographer. Tissues are sliced, weighed, and placed in a nutrient medium designed to resemble natural brain fluid. Oxygen is added and the tissues are incubated on a Warburg bath. Metabolites, drugs, or other agents under study can be added to incubating slices in order to observe their effects on metabolism. At the end of the incubation period (usually 60 minutes) the tissue is analyzed.

These experiments have demonstrated that there are defects in the metabolism of epileptogenic tissues, notably in the metabolism of glutamic acid, one of the important amino acids in nervous tissue. It was further observed that the amide of glutamic acid (glutamine) and a closely related amide (asparagine) would correct abnormalities in glutamic acid metabolism.

As a result of these findings, clinical trials of glutamine and asparagine were begun to determine their effect on epileptic seizures. Although no final conclusions have been reached, good results in controlling seizures have been obtained in a number of cases.

Treatment of clinical seizures with glutamine and asparagine marks a radical departure from previous types of drugs, which act as general sedatives or depressants. The two compounds, normally present in the body in small amounts, are given with the idea of correcting specific biochemical defects in epileptogenic areas of brain. Good blood and spinal fluid levels have been obtained with doses used, and metabolic utilization by brain tissue has been proved with C14-labelled amides.

The following manuscripts were received by SRB Editorial Section between December 1 and 15.

Axelrod, Julius. The enzymic cleavage of aromatic ethers.
Bahn, Robert, et al. The physiological effects of prolonged endogenous stimulation of the adrenal cortex of the female mouse.
Briner, William H. Why not choose hospital pharmacy?
Briner, William H. The pharmacy program of the USPHS.
Bryant, Mary Edna. What should you bring to a new job?
Burnstein, S., et al. Increased incorporation of C14-acetates into adrenal cortisol and corticosterone in late survey.
Burstone, M. S. Histochemical demonstration of protolytic (peptidase) activity in human neoplasms.
Contini, Giulio L. S-adenosylmethionine.
Cockburn, T. A., et al. Relationship of the 1951 Greeley, Colorado, outbreak of conjunctivitis and pharyngitis to type 3 AP virus infection.
Cole, Kenneth S. The nerve trigger.
Dalmat, Herbert T. Is Simulium dellinii Joan (1912) (Diptera, Simuliidae) present in Guatemala?
Deringer, Margaret K., et al. Abnormalities of the urogenital system in strain A x C line 9935 rats.
Dunitz, J. D. Structure of dithionite.
Dunitz, J. D. The structure of sodium dithionite and the nature of the dithionite ion.
Fish, M. S., et al. tert-amino oxide rearrangements.
Heppel, Leon A., et al. Small polynucleotides with 5'-phosphomonoester end-groups.
Hertz, Roy, et al. Progestational activity of the halogenated corticosteroids and related compounds in the rabbit and monkey.
Jacobs, Leon. Increasing knowledge on human toxoplasmosis.
Jakoby, William B. An enzymatic detoxification mechanism for viadril.
Kramer, Morton. Some considerations of the population dynamics of mental hospitals with a discussion of research needed to evaluate the accomplishments of such hospitals.
Kurland, Leonard T. Epidemiologic investigations of multiple sclerosis and amyotrophic lateral sclerosis-metabolic implications.
Law, L. W., et al. The behavior in transplant of lymphocytic neoplasms arising from parental thymic grafts in irradiated, thymectomized hybrid mice.
Liddle, Grant W. Delta 1, 9 alpha-fluorohydrocortisone: a new investigative tool in adrenal physiology.
Skow, David. Mental and chronological age problems in law and medicine.
Symeoulou, Constantine S. Changes in the duration of the electric response of single nerve fibers following repetitive stimulation.
Wildman, W. C. On the structure of haemoglobin.
Windle, S. F., et al. Regeneration in the cord of spinal monkeys.
Witkop, Bernhard, et al. The conversion of L-histidine into hydroxy- and allohydroxy-proline via erythro-3,4-three-hydroxy-L-ornithine.
Yarrow, Marian Radke. Personality development and minority group membership.

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NIH Spotlight
Mary W. Faunce

The term "career service" may be just a phrase in many Washington circles, but to Mrs. Mary W. Faunce, DRG, these words bring up happy memories which go back to the beginning of her Government career in 1920 at the Navy Department.

From Navy, Mary went to the Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, where she stayed until her marriage in 1929. She then resigned and in 1933 her daughter, Mary Phyllis, was born. After supervising the early training of her daughter, Mary returned to the Department of Agriculture in 1941 and a year later joined the Public Health Service.

Since Mary's home is in Bethesda, she decided to transfer to NIH which is nearer her home. The transfer was effected in 1942 to the NIH Appointment Section and she has been Mail and File Clerk in the DRG Administrative Services Section since 1947. In looking back at her many years of Government service and various assignments, Mary feels the position she now holds is the most interesting.

Born in Washington, D. C., Mary attended the Academy of the Sacred Heart in the old Southwest section of town, and, upon graduation, began her venture into the business world. Her family still owns property in that historic section.

Mary's home, her husband and daughter are her main interests in life, but she does find time to do a bit of gardening and raises flowers in her back yard. Each spring and fall Mary and her husband, who is a retired Government employee, journey to Atlantic City to stroll the boardwalk in early morning and to enjoy the brisk ocean breezes.

Mary has long been an active member in the R & W and assists with the candy sale each Easter, Thanksgiving and Christmas. Her special dream is to own a candy and flower shop after she retires, for, after being active all her life, Mary says it would be difficult to just settle down to a life of complete retirement.

R & W NOTES
At the annual meeting of the R & W membership on December 14, the following officers were elected for the 1956 term: Daniel O'Keefe, CC, President; Arnold Pratt, NCI, Vice-President; Hazel Milroy, OD, Treasurer; Mary Speicher, NCI, Recording Secretary; and Jeanne Walton, NHI, Corresponding Secretary.

The membership also voted to continue the practice of sending a gift of $50 to the family of any full-time NIH employee upon notification of the employee's death. Erv Liljegren, outgoing President, reported that eight such gifts had been made during 1955, and all were very gratefully received. Other business included three amendments to the By-Laws, providing for a more efficient organization of the Executive Council.

Mr. Liljegren highlighted R & W's accomplishments in 1955, one of the most active years in the Association's history. Membership rose to a record-breaking total of 2,326, approximately 50 percent of all NIH employees. During the year the Association continued to sponsor the established services and special interest groups, and eight new activities were added to the roster: the NIH Chorus, the Film Society, art and piano instruction classes, the Film Service Booth, a charm course, a basketball team and an archery club.

The welfare activities of the Association expanded to include an Employee Counseling Service. Thirty-seven employees availed themselves of this confidential service. The Social Committee put on two successful dances, one in the spring and the other at Thanksgiving. The Hamsters also had an active year,
DR. ALTON MEISTER
TO LEAVE NIH JAN. 1

Dr. Alton Meister, NCI, will leave NIH on January 1 to become Professor and Head of the Department of Biochemistry and Nutrition at Tufts University School of Medicine in Boston. Dr. Meister is presently Head of the Clinical Biochemical Research Section of the NCI Laboratory of Biochemistry.

Well-known for his outstanding investigations in the field of enzyme chemistry, Dr. Meister was the 1954 recipient of the Paul-Lewis Laboratories Award of the American Chemical Society. He has been at NIH since 1946.

SMADDEL Cont’d

Department of Virus and Rickettsial Diseases at the Walter Reed Institute of Research. In the past he has served as Director of the Commission on Immunization of the Armed Forces Epidemiological Board, and as Director of the Armed Forces Commission on Hemorrhagic Fever. He is one of the seven members of the PHS Technical Committee on Poliomyelitis Vaccine.

Dr. Smadel received his B.A. degree from the University of Pennsylvania in 1928, his M.D. degree in 1931 from Washington University, St. Louis, Mo. In 1950 he received an Honorary Master of Science degree from Yale University. In 1955 he received an Honorary Doctor of Science degree from Jefferson Medical College, Philadelphia, Pa.

DR. WILLIAM KOMP,
NMI, DIES AT HOME

Dr. William H. W. Komp, medical entomologist in NMI's Laboratory of Tropical Diseases, died December 7 at his home in College Park.

A PHS officer since 1918, Dr. Komp was recognized as an authority on the mosquito, and spent a number of years in the tropics studying insect carriers of disease.

Dr. Komp was born in Yokohama, Japan, of missionary parents. He received his B.S. and M.S. degrees from Rutgers University, New Brunswick, N. J., and was awarded an honorary Doctor of Science degree by the university in October. He is survived by his wife and a daughter, Mrs. Harry Williams.

Available in Library

A set of bound volumes of NIH administrative documents is now available in the Library. Included in the collection are the Human Relations study of NIH, 1954 Highlights of progress, testimony for the Congressional Subcommittee on Appropriations, data collected for the National Science Foundation study of NIH, 1954 Research Progress Reports, and analyses of the activities of all Institutes and the Clinical Center for 1954.

ASSOCIATION Cont’d

producing the annual "Life at NIH" show and "Ladies of the Corridor," as well as two workshop presentations.

R & W added to the NIH Christmas spirit by sponsoring the annual Christmas program, purchasing Christmas trees for the Clinical Center and Building 1, and providing funds for the decoration of the NIH float in the Bethesda Christmas parade. The Association also bought two 48-cup electric coffee urns, a hi-fi phonograph and a tape recorder for use by employee groups.

LOST AND FOUND

The following articles have been found on the NIH reservation and may be seen in the Guard Office, Room 1A-06, Building 10.

Ladies' Pliers
gloves Ladies' rings
Bracelet Sweaters
Eyeglass Belts
Cases Wallets
Earrings Men's raincoats
Social Security Cigarette lighters
card Tobacco pouches
Buttons Man's watch
Lipsticks Maryland license
tags Keys
Address book Thermos bottles