$375 IN AWARDS GOES TO THREE EMPLOYEES

Three more employees received awards at the close of last month for superior work performance and for suggestions. The total amount of money was $375, with the largest award of $250 going to Raymond A. Wilding, auditor, DRG, for superior work performance.

At ceremonies held March 26 in Building T-6, Mr. Wilding was commended for graphically presenting the answers to how and why research money is expended. C. A. Lowe, Administrative Officer of the DRG Operations Branch, made the presentation, and Scott Adams, Chairman, NIH Board on Employee Awards, addressed the group.

The other awards went to a member of the Nursing Service, Ralph E. Meadows, nursing assistant, and a former member, Mrs. Thomas S. Cotton, nurse, now with a Veterans Administration hospital at Dallas, Texas.

Mr. Meadows' award of $25 was for a suggestion which will decrease (See Awards, Page 4)

NEW PARKING SPACE WILL SOON BE ADDED

In an effort to ease the current parking congestion, the NIH administration is planning to add a total of 375 new parking spaces within a maximum period of six months. Ninety of the new spaces--to be located on the area between the service buildings and South Drive--are expected to be completed 45 days from now. Early this summer, construction will start on a new 185-car lot west of the Clinical Center, and, in addition, South Drive will be extended through to Old Georgetown Road, making another 100 parking spaces available.

Easter Baskets Brighten Clinical Center

Nurse Elizabeth Massie holds Cornelius Cannon as he and Francis Housden admire Easter gifts from the Blair-O-Debs of Montgomery Blair High School in Silver Spring. The Club members brought Easter baskets to young patients on Ward 11 West, March 30.

DR. JOSEPH GREENBERG WINS NSF FELLOWSHIP

The National Science Foundation recently awarded a postdoctoral fellowship to Dr. Joseph Greenberg, parasitologist in the NIAID Laboratory of Tropical Diseases. He plans to study microbial biochemistry at the University of California under Dr. H. A. Barker, Professor of Biochemistry. He will leave for Berkeley next September.

These NSF awards are made to scientists who have secured their doctorates at least five years before and have since demonstrated marked research ability.

Dr. Greenberg, who has been at NIH since 1947, was the 1954 recipient of the Bailey K. Ashford medal of the American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene for outstanding contributions to research on malaria and amebiasis.

DR. SHEAR HONORED BY MONTREAL UNIVERSITY

The Institute of Experimental Medicine and Surgery of the University of Montreal has invited Dr. Murray J. Shear, Chief of the NCI Laboratory of Chemical Pharmacology, to serve as Claude Bernard Professor on April 23 and 24. The Professorships, named in honor of the famed French physiologist, were established to increase the scope of the University's postgraduate training in medical research. The students themselves select the Professors from investigators whose work has been most stimulating to them.

Dr. Shear, who observed the 25th anniversary of his entry into PHS cancer research on February 23, is expected to talk about his polysaccharide research during the two-day schedule of informal lectures.
Electroretinography, the recording of the electrical response of the retina to a light stimulus, is being used by the NINDB Ophthalmology Branch in physiological and clinical studies.

Its application to the human is made possible by the fact that the electrical response of the retina may be picked up from the cornea. The electrode is buried in a plastic contact lens, which may be worn comfortably on the eye after installation of a local anesthetic.

With the patient resting in bed, the retina is subjected to light stimuli from an overhead electric flashlamp. The electrical responses are recorded by means of a cathode ray oscilloscope or an EEG machine. These tracings may then be studied as an index of retinal function, just as the electrocardiogram is used as an index of heart function.

Physiological studies on the human electroretinogram have been undertaken in normal, night-blind, and totally color-blind subjects. In these studies the intensity, color, and duration of the light stimulus was varied, in order to gain information about the basic processes that compose the electroretinogram.

Electroretinograms were also obtained for clinical purposes to aid in the diagnosis and prognosis of retinal disease. They are most useful in patients with opacities of the optical media, such as cataract, which prevents visibility of the retina by the usual means. By the use of a strong light flash in these cases, it is possible to elicit an electroretinogram, and thereby judge the function of the retina. This method is also of particular value in testing the vision of infants and children where the usual subjective methods of testing visual function cannot be employed.

Dr. Hans Bornschein, Visiting Scientist from Vienna, is conducting these clinical studies in the Physiology Section of the Ophthalmology Branch in cooperation with Drs. George Goodman, Gilbert Lasser, and Ralph Gunkel.
Modern medicine recognizes the importance of emotions and how they can affect body health. Anxiety and tensions act almost like slow poisons on the body, sometimes causing high blood pressure and digestive ailments.

One of the best ways to avoid trouble is to slow down. Take a break from the hurried routine of modern living every now and then, and learn to relax. Don’t take office problems home with you and spend sleepless nights worrying about them. Get a good night’s rest instead, and you’ll be surprised how the biggest problems at the office will suddenly be solved.

It is estimated that 50 percent of the people requiring medical attention are suffering from ailments brought about by emotional disturbances such as prolonged worry, anxiety, or fear. These sometimes are associated with high blood pressure, peptic ulcers, colitis, headaches, joint and muscular pains, skin disorders, and even some allergies.

When the first signs of illness occur, it is wise to consult a doctor and have a complete physical checkup. If these ailments are brought to the early attention of your physician, he may be able to treat them successfully and ward off further illness.

Being a "front-office" secretary requires meticulous attention to detail as well as the diplomacy and know-how of a public relations consultant. These are the assets that attractive Peg Haller brings to her job as secretary to Dr. Roderick Murray, Chief of the Division of Biologies Standards.

In a sense, Peg’s present job rounds out a complete cycle in her NIH career. Her first job here, in November 1948, was as secretary to the Assistant Chief of the NMI Laboratory of Biologies Control—who at that time was Dr. Roderick Murray. A year and a half later, she moved to NCI, where she served as secretary to Dr. Harold Dorn, then Chief of the Institute's Biometrics Section. From 1951 until she came to her present job, she was secretary to Dr. Norman Topping, NIH Associate Director, and his successor in that position, Dr. James A. Shannon.

She finds her job in NIH’s newest Division an interesting and challenging one—particularly since the growth of DBS has been so rapid in the past months. The number of employees in the Division has increased from 42 at the time of its establishment last June to approximately 125 at the present.

A native of Southern Maryland, Peg was born and reared in Brandywine, a small town about 20 miles from Washington. Following her graduation from high school there, she attended Irving College in Mechanicsburg, Pa., and then enrolled for a secretarial course at Stuart's Business College in Washington.

Her first job was with a Washington firm of insurance adjusters, where she worked up from a stenographic to a claims adjuster position. "Have dog but will travel" could well have been her motto during the next six years of her career. The Haller family, complete with wire-haired terrier, Poochie, made no less than 27 moves in that short time. While most of the moves were dictated by husband Franklin's career in the retailing business and in the Air Force, more than a few were made for Poochie's convenience, Peg reports.

During her husband's stint in the service, Peg became one of the first women to don the "Air Force" blue. This special uniform was made up for the secretaries at the Materiel Command of the Army Air Force at Langley Field, Va. Her other jobs during the war years included insurance adjuster positions with firms in Savannah and Philadelphia, and a Red Cross job in San Antonio. After the War, the Hallers moved to Middleton, N. Y., where Peg had another insurance job, before settling down in Bethesda.

Peg's favorite pastimes include sewing and "dabbling around with a paint brush"—textile painting being her specialty. She and her husband enjoy attending English movies, and strangely enough, they both still love to travel.
Raymond A. Wilding, superior work performance award winner, points to one of the graphs that he designed. At left is C. A. Lowe, Administrative Officer, Operations Branch, DRG.

AWARDS Cont’d

the breakage of glassware. He recommended the use of rubber stripping on sink edges so that glassware would not be chipped or broken when placed in the sinks for washing.

Mrs. Cotton's suggestion, which earned her $100, was to place plastic pockets for patients' records on the back of wheelchairs so the nurse or attendant would have his hands free to assist the patient.

BARBERSHOP QUARTET PRESENTS CONCERT

The Singing Capitol Chorus, international barbershop quartet champions, will present a concert on April 18, at 8:00 p.m. in the Clinical Center Auditorium.

The concert will include selections by "The Precisionists," a special 20-voice chorus that will tour Europe this summer.

Families and friends of patients and NIH employees and their families are invited to attend at no charge.

ASSOCIATION Cont’d

The 1956 edition of "Life at NIH" will be presented on May 24, 25, and 26, at the CC Auditorium. Tryouts will be held on April 11 and 12, at 12:00 noon in the CC Auditorium, and on April 11 at 7:30 p.m.

The tennis courts will be available early in May and instructions will be given during May and June. A few additional memberships are still available. For further information, call Cal Baldwin, ext. 2331, or Peg Badger, ext. 591.

PVT. MULLICAN NAMED FIREMAN OF THE MONTH

Private Milton R. Mullican has been named Fireman of the Month for April. He was cited for his initiative, creativeness, loyalty, and sense of responsibility toward his job.

Private Mullican has served as Chief of the Rockville Volunteer Fire Department and has completed the Firemen's Training Course at the University of Maryland. He was born in Bethesda and attended public schools in Montgomery County.

Shortly after joining NIH as a carpenter in June 1954, Private Mullican joined the Fire Department as a firefighter. During World War II he served in the U. S. Navy as a radio operator and saw action in the South Pacific.

An in-service training program for NIH personnel got under way last month when the CC Housekeeping Section attended a five-session training course. The newly developed program was under the guidance of Mrs. Emma Karch, CC Executive Housekeeper, and Dr. Charles S. Dayton, recently appointed NIH Training Officer.

To determine the areas where the employees felt the greatest need for supplemental training, a series of round-table discussions were held with members of the supervisory staff of the Housekeeping Section. Five topics were decided upon for the training sessions: the mission of NIH, Civil Service information, mission and organization of the Housekeeping Section, housekeepers as members of the patient-care team, and coping with on-the-job hazards.

Morning and afternoon sessions were held for the daytime housekeeping staff and evening sessions for the night force. All the two-hour programs were held in the 14th-floor assembly room. NIH instructors were Mr. Philip Simon, CC Administrative Officer; Miss Bertie Dawson, CC Personnel Generalist; Mrs. Emma Karch, CC Executive Housekeeper; Miss Josephine O'Connor, Assistant to the Chief of the CC Nursing Department; and Mr. James Black, NIH Safety Officer.