NIH record

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE

December 17, 1956 - Vol. VIII, No. 24

PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH

NIH PREPARES FOR CHRISTMAS

The Clinical Center Auditorium will be the scene of joyful caroling and Christmas cheer Thursday, December 20, at the annual NIH Christmas gathering. The NIH Choral Group, under the direction of Mr. George Messick, will be featured in a program of Christmas carols, many of which are folksongs and carols from other lands.

The program will open at 11:30 a.m. with a holiday greeting from Dr. Dan O'Keefe, president of R & W, and will include a short Christmas message from Dr. James A. Shannon, Director of NIH. The program is jointly sponsored by R & W and NIH and is open to all employees and friends.

The atmosphere of Christmas is evident from the many decorated trees throughout NIH. The R & W Association purchased the trees that decorate the CC lobby, Wilson Hall, Top Cottage, and many of the wards.

Christmas activities for the patients began officially December 16 with a Christmas cantata and a greeting from Santa Claus, portrayed by Dr. Jack Masur, CC Director. The rest of the season will be filled with ward caroling and Christmas parties sponsored by volunteer groups. Many NIH employees have contributed money for patient Christmas gifts, and the Gray Ladies have generously given time and effort to make the Christmas season a merry one.

SANTA BRINGS CHRISTMAS SPIRIT TO NIH

Santa (Joel Vernick, CC) makes his rounds in the Clinical Center to assure the children that they will not be forgotten at Christmas. These are some of the children who are making Christmas decorations and gifts as part of their treatment in occupational therapy.

CIVIC GROUP PLANS CHRISTMAS PROGRAM FOR NIH PATIENTS

A large and lively Christmas program for NIH patients will be sponsored by the Bethesda Exchange Club.

Mr. Richard Hoddinott, president of the club, and other club officers visited the Clinical Center on December 6 to complete arrangements for the program. They presented to Dr. Masur, Director, CC, and J. Glenn Harrison, representing the patients, a $360 check for party refreshments, gifts, and decorations.

For the entertainment of the patients, the club also plans a show to

(See Civic Group, Page 4)

Dr. Berlin Joins Staff of NCI

Dr. Nathaniel I. Berlin recently joined the NCI staff as Head of the Metabolism Service of the General Medicine Branch. He was formerly associated with the Armed Forces Special Weapons Project of the Department of Defense.

Dr. Berlin also held an NCI postdoctoral research fellowship at the Donner Laboratory, University of California, Berkeley, and received a special NHI research fellowship at the National Institute of Medical Research, London, England. Dr. Berlin's recent studies have concerned the application of radioactive isotopes to biologic and medical research, with principal emphasis on physiologic and clinical hematology.

New Drug for Treatment of Gout

No. 176 in a Series

A nineteenth century caricature by Rowlandson entitled "Origin of the Gout" depicts the then accepted theory that gout is a disease of the aristocrat and a penalty for high living.

A new and very potent drug for treatment of gout has been reported by NHI. This drug, a sulfoxide analog of phenylbutazone, is the result of investigations to find a nonsteroidal agent with the antirheumatic action of cortisone and ACTH, but without their unfavorable hormonal effects. Although the drug has little antirheumatic activity, it was found, surprisingly enough, to induce an extraordinary increase in urinary excretion of uric acid.

The new drug is promising as a therapeutic agent in the treatment of gout, for this is a metabolic disease associated with increased concentration of uric acid in the blood and body fluids. When excess uric acid is produced, some of it dissolves in the blood and is stored there. Since the blood can store only a small quantity of uric acid, the remainder settles in the form of crystal deposits, called tophi, in cartilage and joints.

The treatment of gout must therefore include a pharmacologic agent that will stimulate the discharge of excess uric acid from the kidneys. The chief usefulness of such an agent in gout is to prevent the crystals from forming, or if they have already formed, to dissolve them. The new sulfoxide drug appears to have these properties without producing unfavorable reactions.

Because of its long and interesting past, gout is a fascinating subject. It is one of the oldest known diseases, and its history is fraught with fallacies and misconceptions. More than any other disease, it has been a favorite subject for the satirist and cartoonist.

Although it has been a means of evoking humor, gout is not funny. It is one of the most painful of diseases, and its attack is sudden and dramatic. It can affect any of the joints in the extremities, but afflicts mainly the great toe or foot.

In former times gout was considered to be the price one paid for a life of luxury and learning. Although this concept has been greatly modified, overindulgence in eating and drinking does provoke the disease. It has hereditary implications and is sex linked, rarely striking women.

The new uricosuric agent for treatment of gout is the result of the combined efforts of Drs. B. B. Brodie and J. J. Burns, both of Laboratory of Chemical Pharmacology, NHI, and Drs. T. F. Yu and Alexander B. Gutman, both of Mount Sinai Hospital, New York City.

Long-range studies are under way to test toxicity and over-all clinical usefulness of the new drug on a large number of patients.

Publication Preview

The following manuscripts were received by SRB Editorial Section between November 27 and December 6.

Axelrod, J. The estimation basic drugs by dye methods.

Bailey, P. Research goals in cerebral palsy.

Baker, R. R., et al. The production and closure of experimental cardio-aortic fistulae.

Bartlett, R. G., et.al. Effect of clipping on body temperature of restrained and non-restrained rats exposed to cold.

Bartlett, R. G., et al. Energy cost of breathing determined with a simplified technique.

Bartlett, R. G., et al. Maximum breathing capacity with various expiratory and inspiratory resistances (single and combined) at various breathing rates.

Bartlett, R. G. Restraint hypothermia and I^{131} uptake by the rat thyroid.

Bieri, J. G., et al. Polyene fatty acids in guinea pig tissue.

Buck, J. Possible mechanism and rationale of cyclic CO_2 retention by insects.

Clausen, J. A. Social patterns and personality as related to drug use among adolescents.

Coatney, G. R. The place of drugs in a program of international protection against malaria.

Cornfield, J. The estimation of the probability of developing a disease in the presence of competing risks.

Dekaban, A. S. Mental deficiency: Recessive transmission to all three children by both parents similarly affected.

Dittmann, A. T., et al. Disturbance in dreams as related to peyotism among the Navaho.

Evarts, E. V. A discussion of research methods as applied to physiological studies of psychiatric patients.

Felix, R. H. Training mental health personnel for work in community programs.

Freter, K., et al. Biochemical and pharmacological studies with D- and L-5-hydroxytryptophan.

Glenner, G. G., et al. The histochemical demonstration of indole derivatives by the post-coupled p-dimethlaminobenzylidene reaction.

Glenner, G. G., et al. The histochemical demonstration of indole derivatives by the rosindole reaction of E. Fischer.

Goldin, A., et al. The anti-leukemic action of reserpine.

Heller, J. R. Some recent developments in cancer research.

Hueper, W. C. Medicolegal aspects of environmental cancers.

NIH RECORD

Published by
Scientific Reports Branch
National Institutes of Health
Room 212, Building 8
Bethesda 14, Maryland
OLiver 6-4000 Ext. 2125

Itano, H. A., et al. Abnormal hemoglobin molecules in relation to disease.

Johnson, D. F., et al. Interconversion of delta 1-cortisone and delta 1-hydrocortisone in man.

Jones, J. C., et al. The nature of certain red cells in Drosophila melanogaster.

Liddel, U. Some simple hydrogen bonding systems studied by infrared absorption.

Lillie, R. D. Ferrous ion uptake: A specific reaction of the melanins.

Lillie, R. D. Trichoxanthin, the yellow granular pigment of guinea pig hair follicles and hair.

Mehler, A. H. Flavoproteins.

Mehler, A. H. Mechanism of action of pyridoxal phosphate enzymes.

Mehler, A. H. Oxidation-reduction potentials.

Miles, H. T. Synthesis of some model pyrimidine nucleosides.

Moore, J. W. Broadband electrometer for bioelectric potential pickup.

Ohmura, E., et al. Enzymatic conversion of formylaspartic acid to aspartic acid.

Peterson, R. E., et al. Isolation of delta 4-pregnene-118, 17a, 20a, 21-tetrol-3-one from urine of man.

Sela, M., et al. Some spectrophotometric and polarimetric experiments with ribonuclease.

Sessoms, S. M. Medical research in a total research hospital setting and its impact on nutrition, physical therapy, and occupational therapy departments.

Shimazono, H., et al. Enzymatic decarboxylation of oxalic acid.

Stewart, W. H. The place of research in rehabilitating the cardiac.

Stone, S. S., et al. Application of antigen-antibody reactions on supporting media for the purification of proteins. II. The removal of a subtilisin-like enzyme from carboxypeptidase preparations by anti-subtilisin on cellulose.

Tosteson, D. C., et al. The coupling of potassium transport with metabolism in duck red cells. I. The effect of sodium fluoride and other metabolic inhibitors.

Tullner, W. W., et al. Progestational activity of 19-norprogesterone and 19-norethisterone in the rhesus monkey.

Udenfriend, S., et al. A spectrophotofluorometric study of organic compounds of pharmacological interest.

Ullmann, C. A. Teachers, peers and tests as predicators of adjustment.

Wells, C. E., et al. Electroencephalographic and neurological changes induced in man by the administration of 1, 2, 4-Triazine-3, 5 (2H, 4H)-dione (6-Azauracil).

Wikler, A. Some problems in "experimental psychiatry."

Williams, R. R., et al. Application of antigen-antibody reactions on supporting media to the purification of proteins. I. A model system for the separation of bovine serum albumin from bovine gamma globulin.

Windle, W. F., et al. New research techniques of neuroanatomy.

NIH Spotlight

Joel J. Vernick

The genial Santa Claus pictured on the first page of this issue is very much at home in the role. Joel Vernick, Social Service Branch, CC, has donned his costume and adjusted his pillows and white beard for the past three years at Christmas time to bring the holiday spirit to the children at the Clinical Center.

But the cheerfulness and generosity that lead Joel to masquerade as Santa Claus is not seasonal. Joel's job of making children happy lasts all the year long. His affection and interest in children have led to his present job of planning and helping to carry out programs and activities in the children's wards. He also shares in interviewing the boys about difficulties that arise in their everyday lives. These interviews are a part of the over-all research program in the children's unit of NIMH. Joel's interest in programming has led to his collaborative research in residential programs for children.

Joel's background as a psychiatric-social worker has been extensive. He majored in psychology and sociology at Wayne University in Detroit, Michigan, and was a resident counselor at Pioneer House, a treatment residence house for children. Joel then received his master's degree from the N. Y. School of Social Work and became assistant director of Boy's House, a treatment residence center for adolescent boys. He continued to expand his interests in this field and also served as a caseworker at the Community Services Society in New York City, counseling and working with children.

Joel came to NIH three years ago. He became a commissioned officer last July, and plans on a career in PHS.

A native New Yorker, Joel was born in Brooklyn. He spent most of his life in White Plains, N. Y., before joining the Army during World War II. Because of his radio and code training, he was stationed on Guam and had the interesting job of intercepting Japanese code messages.

Now he has settled down in Kensington with his wife Joan and two small sons, Kenny and Andy. After working hours, Joel enjoys demonstrating his abilities as a handy man. He has been busy "knocking down the walls of his house," but plans eventually to build closets and counters.

A man of many talents, Joel is also an accomplished musician. He studied to be a concert pianist for twelve years at the Westchester Conservatory of Music and still enjoys music very much, particularly classical music and progressive jazz. Hamster fans have enjoyed his acting in "Oklahoma" and "Life at NIH."

For relaxation, Joel likes to watch westerns on TV or in the movies, or to sneak out for an occasional game of golf. He admits, though, that he just can't seem to succeed at one thing -- to win at poker, his life's ambition.

With these many and varied activities, there is no doubt that Joel keeps as busy as Santa himself.

R & W NOTES

The next presentation of the NIH Film Society will be "Blood and Sand," starring Rudolph Valentino. It is scheduled for the CC Auditorium at 8:15 p.m., December 19 and 20. Tickets for the last three films in the series may still be obtained from Bill Gray, ext. 2877, at the regular subscription prices of $2 for one person or $3 for two.

The NIH Garden Club announces the election of its new officers for 1957. These are Dr. Harry Wood,

(See R & W Notes, Page 4)

CIVIC GROUP PRESENTS XMAS CHECK

Members of the Bethesda Exchange Club, headed by President Richard Hoddinott (fourth from left), present a check to J. Glenn Harrison, patient representative, and Dr. Jack Masur, CC Director (third from left), for the patient Christmas program.

CIVIC GROUP Contd.

include a well-known band and popular professional entertainers.

The Exchange Club was established less than three years ago as a service club for the Bethesda-Chevy Chase community. It draws its members from the residents and businessmen of the Bethesda-Chevy Chase area, and has 60 members.

Among other civic endeavors, the organization donates to the Boy Patrol and crippled children of Montgomery County, and gives blood to the Suburban Hospital Blood Bank.

Guard of the Month

Lt. Paul N. Bankard has been selected Guard of the Month for December. He receives this honor because of his outstanding loyalty to the Guard Section, his neat appearance, and his perfect attendance record. He is the only guard who is a member of the 1000-hour Sick Leave Club at NIH.

Lt. Bankard joined NIH as a guard in 1941. He served with the U. S. Navy from 1944 to 1945 and returned to his position upon his honorable discharge. He was promoted to sergeant in 1945 and to lieutenant in 1956.

Your Blood is Needed

The need for blood never ceases. Your contribution may mean the difference between life and death of a stricken patient. The Red Cross Bloodmobile will be at NIH on Friday, December 28, from 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. For further information, call ext. 2673 or 2454.

AID TO HUNGARIANS

Contributions by NIH employees totaling $1400 for aid to Hungarian relief have been collected and forwarded to the International Rescue Committee. This generosity is deeply appreciated. The needs, however, are growing with the daily swelling of the refugee list, and can only be met by further financial donations.

Cash or checks should be sent to Marjorie Harsha, Bg. 10, Rm. 6D-20. For more information, contact Dr. Stanley Sarnoff, ext. 3119.

R & W NOTES Contd.

president, Martha Bacon, vice president, Edwin Edelen, treasurer, Dorothy Surle, recording secretary, Helen Anderson, corresponding secretary, and Jud Hardy, program committee chairman.

The Garden Club is one of several local clubs that will decorate patients' rooms for the holidays. Guests and visitors are welcome to meetings, which are held on the fourth Monday of the month. Because of the Christmas holiday, there will be no meeting in December.

Rifles and targets are available to those who enjoy shooting with the NIH Rifle and Pistol Club. The club meets every Wednesday evening at 8:00 p.m., at the range in Montgomery Blair High School, Silver Spring. For more information, contact Frank Noble, ext. 2966.

NIH CHORUS REHEARSES FOR XMAS

The NIH Choral Group, under the direction of Mr. George Messick (front center), rehearses Christmas carols for the annual NIH Christmas program December 20.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

GPO 918013