Dr. John Cutler Named NIAID Asst. Director

Dr. John C. Cutler, former Chief Program Officer, BSS, will assume the position of Assistant Director of NIAID this month. He will assist NIAID Director Justin M. Andrews, and will direct the Institute's grants program, which provides support for over 800 research projects in non-Federal laboratories.

Dr. Cutler has been a Commissioned Officer in PHS since 1942, serving in venereal disease control and research. He has worked with field programs in Afghanistan, Guatemala, and India, as well as at Washington headquarters.

A native of Cleveland, Ohio, Dr. Cutler received his M.D. degree from Western Reserve University, Cleveland, and his M.P.H. from Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore. He is a member of the American Medical Association, the American Public Health Association, the Academy of Public Health, and other professional organizations.

UTERINE CANCER TESTS OFFERED TO EMPLOYEES

Women employees at NIH are urged to take advantage of vaginal cytology tests for the detection of uterine cancer which are being offered by the NCI Washington Cytology Unit in cooperation with the Employee Health Service.

For the first time, tests will be scheduled throughout the year rather than for a limited time. Cards will be distributed to women employees, indicating the day on which they may receive the test.

Participation in this cancer control program is voluntary and results will be confidential. Age and marital status do not affect the need for the test, which is simple, quick, and painless. Women employees are advised to be tested annually, since cervical cancer is usually completely curable if detected at an early stage.

NEW YEAR ARRIVES AT THE CLINICAL CENTER

Management and information training programs now being conducted at NIH are designed to select and prepare qualified young men and women for career positions of increasing responsibility. The courses are of 12 months duration.

The management intern program, now in its second year at NIH, is a Government-wide program for training in general administration and related areas. Two trainees have completed the course and are now employed here. Six candidates are now in training.

The information training programs were inaugurated by three NIH Institutes. NCI launched its course over a year ago. Its two trainees are now full-fledged staff members. NHI and NIMH each now has one candidate nearing completion of training.

Success of these courses led to the recent establishment of a central information training program of somewhat broader scope, to train candidates in all phases of the PHS-NIH information program.

The central information training course, first of its kind in the Federal Government, is at present limited to the enrollment of three trainees. One of these was enrolled in the course on December 2. The two remaining candidates are yet to be selected.

Candidates, including NIH employees, are required to pass the Federal Service Entrance Examination prior to enrollment in the management and information training courses. Candidates for the management training course must also pass an oral examination.

In each of the Institutes or Divisions to which he is assigned, the trainee works under the direct
New Procedure For Diagnosis Of Sickle Cell Disease

No. 198 in a Series

Investigators in NINDB have observed ocular changes in five patients with sickle cell disease. Their findings indicate that an examination of the eye may provide evidence for the diagnosis of some variants of the disease.

Sickle cell disease is a hemoglobin disorder characterized by the tendency of red blood cells to assume a sickle shape at low oxygenation. The viscous aggregates of the sickled cells may result in an obstruction of small blood vessels.

The disease complex, encompassing sickle cell anemia and several other variants, is hereditary and almost exclusively confined to the Negro race. Few patients suffering from the anemia variant live beyond the age of 40, and the majority die in early childhood.

Clinical signs of diagnostic significance were reported in five patients by investigators in the Ophthalmology Branch, NINDB. These signs consisted of changes in the retina and, to a minor extent, in the optic disc and conjunctiva. Retinal, preretinal, or vitreous hemorrhage occurred in four of the patients who had one of the variants known as sickle cell hemoglobin C disease.

The underlying mechanism producing these ocular conditions seems to consist primarily of the occlusion of fine arterial and venous branches in areas of the retina where the oxygen supply is relatively low.

Although there is no specific treatment for sickle cell disease, the new diagnostic signs are of particular importance for identifying this specific disease entity and for separating it from the many eye disorders classified as Eales's disease.

A diagnosis of Eales's disease, the investigators feel, should call for a re-examination of the patient for sickle cell disease. This will help prevent the use of therapy commonly prescribed for Eales's disease in cases where sickle cell disease is actually the cause.
ANIMAL CARETAKERS COMPLETE SEMINAR

Twelve animal caretakers recently completed a refresher course in techniques and fundamentals of animal care conducted by the Laboratory Aids Branch, DRS.

Participants were Ignacio A. Smith, Mary Benjamin, and Milton Parker, NIAMD; Elmer Dyson, Dan Gauthier, and Howard Crawford, NINDB; Earl Dillehay, Walter Johnson, and Bruce Hill, NIAID; Ray Sheets, NCI; and John Warfield and Morris Johnson, LAB.

The 10-hour seminar was the second of its kind sponsored by the LAB. Sessions included instruction in the care and handling of laboratory animals, basic sanitation, the use of animals in research, and the caretaker's role in medical research.

A third refresher course, tentatively scheduled for March, is planned by Dr. Willard H. Eyestone, LAB Chief, and his staff. Supervisors are invited to submit names of recommended caretakers.

TRAINING Contd.

supervision and guidance of one or more individuals. It is also the duty of these supervisors to evaluate the abilities and progress of the trainee, and at the conclusion of each phase of the program to submit an evaluation report.

The program is supplemented by in-service seminars and appropriate university night courses.

The management trainee spends three months in each of two Institutes or program Divisions, and three months in each of two NIH central service Divisions or offices.

Under the new central information training program, the trainee spends two months each in a small and a large Institute information office, two periods of one month each in ORI, one month each in the Scientific Reports Branch of DRS, the CC information office, and the PHS information offices, and three months devoted to administrative training in various offices at NIH.

Both training programs are administered by an over-all seven-member NIH training committee headed by Robert H. Grant, Executive Officer of NIH. The information training program was designed and is also directly supervised by a four-member committee of which James F. Kiley, NCI Information Officer, is chairman.

POLISH SCIENTIST GIVES LECTURE SERIES HERE

Professor Jerzy Konorski, well-known neuropathologist from the Polish Academy of Sciences, recently completed a series of five lectures at NIH and the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research. Three lectures presented at NIH included comments on the inhibition of cerebral cortex activity and the functional significance of the prefrontal areas of the brain.

Professor Konorski is touring neuropathological research organizations in the U. S. under the auspices of the Polish Ministry of Education. He was formerly associated with the Academy of Medicine at the University of Lodz, Poland, and has studied in Leningrad under Professor I. P. Pavlov.

The lecture series was jointly sponsored by NINDB, NIMH, and the Walter Reed Institute of Research.

Sand Barrels Available

Dark green barrels containing sand and a short-handled shovel have been placed at strategic spots around NIH to aid motorists when traffic is snarled by unexpected ice or snow. Employees are requested to use the sand until the maintenance section can complete sanding operations, and to replace the shovel and lid of the barrel after using.

Employees who are unable to remove their automobiles from the grounds because of snow or icy conditions will be assisted whenever possible by NIH maintenance crews. Personnel are requested to stand by their cars, to signal maintenance crews that will be patrolling parking areas, and to be patient. Several hundred employees were aided by these crews during the recent emergency.

Officers' Meeting

This month's Commissioned Officer question-and-answer session will be held January 8 at 3:00 p.m. in Wilson Hall. Officers who plan to attend may make reservations by calling ext. 3381.
NEWS BRIEFS

Dr. William H. Sebrell, Jr., former NIH Director, has been appointed director of the Institute of Nutrition Sciences and professor of public health nutrition at Columbia University. Since his retirement from PHS in 1955, Dr. Sebrell has served as a research consultant for the American Cancer Society.

NIH Guard Pvt. John W. Wolfe has been named December's Guard-of-the-Month. The honor was bestowed on him for his courtesy, neatness, and consistent attention to his duties.

Training institutes for over 5,000 high school and college teachers of science and mathematics will be held under a National Science Foundation program next summer. Six Washington area colleges and universities will be included in the 108 educational institutions that will conduct these institutes.

Dr. Henry A. Imus, Program Analysis, NINDB, was recently appointed consultant to the Committee on Research and Standards of the American Optometric Association.

Dr. John D. Porterfield, PHS Deputy Surgeon General, recently participated in a two-week training program in Williamsburg, Va., for career executives in the Federal Government. The program was sponsored by the Brookings Institution and financed by the Ford Foundation.

R & W Notes

R & W membership cards and discount books for 1958 are now available from division representatives, at the NIH Post Office, and at the R & W Film Service Desk. Membership in R & W, still only $1, entitles you to numerous benefits, including more discounts from area merchants than ever before. An Agent's card, to be used by a member of an employee's immediate family, may be obtained for $.50. Be sure to see your division representative soon and sign up for membership.

Newly elected R & W division representatives and alternates are: Marjorie Harsha and Margaret Clabaugh, NIH; Elsie Hoffmeister and Dorothy Quinn, NIMH; Raymond Jones and Audrey Hess, DRG; James Hawkes and Virginia Porter, DB; Janice Cooper and Alice Gochenour, DB; Willard Maginnis and Nina Ramacciotti, CC; Irving Goldberg and Dorothy Ward, NINDB; Joan Callanan and William Stalters, NIAMD; Robert Weber and Florence LePere, DRG; and Harvey James, NIAID.

Others will be announced as election returns are completed.

STUDY SECTIONS MEET

The following study section meetings will be held at NIH from January 3-14. Subsequent meetings will be announced in the NIH RECORD.

Attendance at study section meetings is by invitation. Information concerning those who are expected to attend is available from the Grants Administration Section, DRG, Room 1001, Bg. T-6, ext. 2625. The current schedule follows:

January 3-5, Morphology and Genetics, Conf. Rm. A, Stone House; January 4-5, Surgery, Conf. Rm. C, Stone House; January 6-7, Dental, Conf. Rm. 114, Bg. 1; January 6-7, Endocrinology, Conf. Rm. C, Stone House; January 8-11, Behavioral Sciences, Conf. Rm. C, Stone House; January 9-11, Allergy and Immunology, Conf. Rm. B, Stone House; January 9-10, Cancer Control Committee, Conf. Rm. A, Stone House; January 9-10, Human Embryology and Development, Conf. Rm. 114, Bg. 1; January 9-10, Nursing Research, Conf. Rm. 1N-320, Bg. 10; January 10-11, Parasitology and Tropical Medicine, Conf. Rm. 15-213, Bg. 10; January 12-14, Cardiovascular, Conf. Rm. 114, Bg. 1; January 14, Radiology, Conf. Rm. 1N-320, Bg. 10; January 13-14, Neurology, Conf. Rm. B, Stone House.

BLAIR-O-DEBS STAR IN CC XMAS PROGRAM

The Blair-O-Debs, a group of Montgomery-Blair High School juniors and seniors, entertained patients in the Clinical Center during the Christmas season with a series of variety acts. The majorettes (left to right) are Sylvia Thomsen, Jean Weaver, and Carolyn Harris.