Nutrition Experts Discuss Problems Of Asian Diets

Food—how much and what kinds are available in Southeast Asia to meet the needs of its millions of people—was the chief topic at the Far East Symposium on Nutrition held in Saigon, Viet Nam, March 11-17.

The symposium attracted representatives from 14 countries who met for the first time to discuss common nutrition problems and the new methods that have been devised to improve and enrich local food supplies. The symposium was co-sponsored by the Interdepartmental Committee on Nutrition for National Defense—and the Republic of Viet Nam, and was also attended by representatives of three United Nations agencies, FAO, WHO, and UNICEF.

A well balanced diet has always been a serious problem in Southeast Asia, and other parts of the Far East where malnutrition and disease combine to take a heavy toll in human lives. Rice is the chief food and source of energy.

NIAMD Scientists Report Visit-to-Moscow Impressions

By Mary Henley

"You are a proud nation—proud that you are great, and that the world recognizes your accomplishments. But Americans refuse to respect us as a dynamic nation! We, too, are proud of what our country has achieved."

The speaker might have passed for a prosperous small businessman from Midwest, USA. He was, in fact, a well-to-do industrialist—Soviet style—from Siberia. Only the non-Savile Row cut of his suit, accentuating a stoxy frame, betrayed his Western veneer.

Vacationing in Kiev, he and his wife had joined two NIH biochemists at dinner in a restaurant where separate table accommodations were at a premium. They were dinner companions whose disarming easy-going manner left the scientists quite unprepared for the hostility implicit in the man's remarks.

First Time Visit

This episode was one of a series of impressions described by NIAMD biochemists after a first-time visit to Russia where they attended the Fifth International Congress of Biochemistry as members of an official delegation from NIH.

Their first exposure to the paradoxes of 20th century Russia came in Copenhagen where the delegates emplaned for Moscow on a Soviet TU-104. Pure jet, the sweeping expanse of grey;

(See NUTRITION, Page 5)

New Distribution System Is Announced

For Policy and Procedure Memoranda

A new method designed to provide for the systematic identification and distribution of issuances concerning NIH-wide administrative policies and procedures was announced March 12 by Dr. Shannon, effective on that date.

Under the new system, NIH administrative policies and procedures will be issued through a series of numbered “NIH Policy and Procedure Memoranda” classified according to principal subject matter area such as General Administration, Personnel, or other categories.

These memoranda will contain guides and principles for administrative and management actions affecting, or of interest to, various NIH staff members regardless of their organizational affiliation. Internal procedures and policies related only to one Institute or Division will not come under this system.

Policy and Procedure Memoranda will be distributed selectively. In general, NIH personnel will receive only the Policy and Procedure Memoranda that directly relate to their area of responsibility.

Each office preparing policy or procedure statements will continue to be responsible for the substance of the policy or procedure, the format of the substantive portion, obtaining necessary concurrences and approval of interested staff members, and for determining distribution of statements. In addition each statement will be issued over the signature of the official responsible.

(See NUTRITION, Page 5)

Publication Shows Way Funds Are Awarded

A new 12-page, pocket-size publication issued by the National Institutes of Health, outlines briefly the way in which funds are awarded to medical schools, colleges, universities, hospitals, and other scientific institutions to support research, training, and the construction and equipping of new and modernized research facilities.

The booklet, "NIH Grants and Fellowships Review and Approval Procedures," also lists the various consultant and advisory groups associated with the grants review and approval process, including the National Advisory Councils, study sections and training grants committees.

Copies of the booklet, FHS Publication No. 909, are available without charge from the DRG Information Office, Bldg. 31, Rm. 1B-32, Ext. 4987.

Clinical Society To Meet Here Next Week

Eighteen papers prepared by 22 NIH scientists will be among those presented at the 16th Annual Meeting of the U.S. Public Health Service Clinical Society, to be held here April 4-7.

The meeting, the third to be held at NIH, will consist of general scientific sessions; dental, pharmacy, medical, surgical, and ophthalmology sessions; and a panel discussion.

Preceding the scientific sessions, a general meeting of the delegates will be held at the Woodrow Hotel in Washington, Wednesday evening, April 4, at 7:30 p.m.

Shannon Welcomes Delegates

Dr. James A. Shannon, Director of NIH, will welcome the delegates at the opening scientific session at 9 a.m., April 5, in the Clinical Center auditorium.

Chairman of the Planning Committee for the meeting is Dr. Edward J. Driscoll, Chief of the Clinical Investigations Branch, NIDR, the Society's Vice President. Co-chairman is Dr. Clifton K. Himmelsbach, CG Associate Director. Others at NIH who will actively participate in the meeting include Dr. Alfred S. Ketcham, Chief of the Surgery Branch, NCI, who will.

(See CLINICAL, Page 7)
Committee Named to Plan Foundation ‘Faculty Center’

The Board of Directors of the Foundation for Advanced Education in the Sciences and members of the four NIH Assemblies of Scientists, representing five Institutes, have announced the appointment of a Joint Committee to plan for the construction and operation of a Foundation “Faculty Center” in the vicinity of NIH.

This building, according to the announcement, will be one of those planned to house a Center for Advanced Education in the Sciences.

The Foundation is a non-profit Maryland educational corporation founded by a group of outstanding biomedical scientists. Its aim is to foster scientific research and education by facilitating communication among scientists and by conducting organized instruction in the sciences.

The Committee, under the co-chairmanship of Dr. Hewitt Fletcher, Jr., NIAMD, and Dr. Herbert Sober, NCI, will have responsibility for planning the design of the proposed building, for financing its construction and developing an organization to conduct operations of the Center.

The Committee is launching a campaign to raise the money needed—and in addition to “an appreciable amount” from the Foundation’s building fund—for acquisition of land adjacent to NIH.

To provide this additional capital, the Foundation is issuing $100 bonds bearing interest at four percent per annum, repayable in five years or less.

**PERSONNEL TO PERSON**

Performance Ratings

Most civil service employees will receive their annual performance ratings at the end of this month. Personnel Operations Officers are now contacting supervisors for the purpose of acquainting them with the Performance Rating program. Copies of HEW reference materials, certification forms, employee listings, etc., are being given to each supervisor.

Supervisors are being reminded that this is an especially appropriate time to give emphasis to the Incentive Awards Program at the NIH. In evaluating each employee’s performance, it will be found that many employees are performing in a superior manner and should be given special recognition.

There are several different types of awards available to NIH employees. These are described in “Supervisors’ Guide to Awards” which is now being made available to supervisors.

Personnel Guides

Each supervisor is receiving a completely revised and condensed version of the HEW Personnel Guides. The new version is being issued in desk reference form and contains materials considered essential to supervisors in carrying out their daily personnel management responsibilities.

College Recruiting

From now through the end of April, staff recruiters from the Personnel Management Branch will be visiting nearly 50 colleges and universities in Delaware, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, and Eastern Ohio, as well as Maryland, Virginia, and the District of Columbia.

The response from nearby colleges already visited has been quite gratifying, and it is expected that many students will be visiting NIH in the next few months to inquire about job opportunities in the physical and biological sciences, in the management intern program, and in the various administrative specialties.

In addition, 28 local high schools and business schools have been contacted concerning visits for the recruitment of typists andstenographers.

Thousands of Korean orphans sleep in the streets. Starving, neglected, they beg, scrounge, even steal to stay alive. Only $1 feeds an orphan for a day. Give to the American-Korean Foundation through the FSJC.

You and Your Mail

To provide information essential to the efficient operation of the NIH Mail and Messenger services, the Communications Section, OSM, is publishing in the Record a series of guidelines for the use of NIH personnel.

Today’s topic is “Registered and Certified Mail.”

Registered mail should be used only where the matter being mailed warrants a record covering transit and is of such value that it cannot be replaced.

In other instances where matter being mailed warrants mailing and delivery records, certified mail should be used.

Registered and certified mail must have the return address of the sender, preferably in the upper left corner.

Packages for registration and certification must be securely wrapped in wrappers of sufficient strength to hold the contents and to withstand ordinary handling in transmission.

Mail of this nature must be in the main Mail Room, Bldg. 31, no later than 4:45 p.m. of the mailing date.

Brown gummed paper should be used for sealing purposes. Sealing tape of the transparent type is not permissible. Attach “Mail- ing Instructions” (form HEW 76) securely to article to be mailed.

The Management Policy Branch, OAM, will assume responsibility for assuring that Policy and Procedure Memoranda are consistent with existing statements of policy, law, and regulations; numbering and classifying issuances by appropriate subject; and arranging for printing and distribution in accordance with instructions provided by the preparer.

The MPB is prepared to carry out this responsibility quickly. Where there is an urgent need for immediate issuance of a proposed policy, the MPB has arranged to have Policy and Procedure Memoranda processed and distributed within 24 hours of receipt in the Branch.

No change in the way NIH policy is formulated will be made, Dr. Shannon said. The issuance system, he added, is specifically designed to be compatible with present operating arrangements, which provide a maximum degree of flexibility in policy formulation and preparation.
Property Accountability Decentralized To Major NIH Organizational Levels

Property accountability at NIH has been decentralized to major organizational levels, in keeping with the decentralization of other central services, the Supply Management Branch reports. The property decentralization has resulted in a more effective program, according to the SMB. Controls, which had proven impractical under a centralized system, are now in effect.

The basic features of the new program are as follows:

1. A designated property representative in each area provides liaison with the Property Unit. By use of EAM cards and listings, he controls location of property and coordinates physical inventories in his area.

2. Approximately 65 percent of all property has been removed from individual custodian listings and recharged to administrative offices in each major area. These items are office, hospital, and laboratory furniture and are referred to as "Group 2" items.

3. Internal transfer documents are no longer required to be submitted to the Property Unit when reassigning "Group 2" property within a major area. In some areas movement of all property is noted on the EAM cards and forwarded to the property representative, who will prepare formal documents if required. Individual program requirements are the determining factor.

4. A reduction has been made in the number of property custodians, further reducing the administrative burden on the medical researcher. The SMB points out that this does not release individuals from their responsibility for the use, care, and protection of Government property.

5. The new program also provides for control of sensitive property, local administration of property procedures, and effective utilization of property within each major area.

The decentralized accountability program has enabled the Property Unit to enlarge its efforts in other areas. In addition to an expanded central repair service, the Unit is promoting a dynamic utilization program.

An employee has been assigned to promote utilization and to stress the need to release unrequired equipment prior to its becoming obsolete. These additional areas of emphasis have been accomplished without additional personnel being added to the staff of the Property Unit.

The SMB reports favorable reaction to its new program as indicated in recent meetings attended by all property representatives. Questions relating to property management in any area may be directed to the property representative.
terior of the plane warranted its renown as a trailblazer. The jet age vanished, however, within the passenger section where the decor was that of a railroad parlor car of the 1930's. Although any picture of Russia includes incompatible opposites, its effect seemed most bizarre to the new visitors arriving in the Soviet capital. Crowding the city skyline, historic structures and modern construction projects vied for attention. The sheer mass of these projects, built under considerable pressure, reflected an urgent need for housing.

Contrasts Evident

In contrast to the shoddy finish of the public housing projects, Soviet architectural and engineering skills were impressively evident in such monumental structures as the University of Moscow and the city's subway system. On the broad, well-kept thoroughfares, pedestrians far outnumbered motor traffic; other than the frequent and punctual public transportation traveling these arteries, vehicular traffic was limited almost entirely to taxis and other State-owned cars.

"When I commented on the ample parking space," said one scientist, "my cab driver told me to come look again in 10 years."

The Americans noted that the drive and aggressiveness of Soviet citizens in the aggregate were agreeably subdivided in individual Muscovites-in-the-street. With few exceptions, the language barrier, they were courteous and friendly in casual contact with foreigners. Moreover, they accorded a special degree of respect to Russian-speaking Westerners. In the streets, appreciative onlookers frequently surrounded such linguists found chatting with Russians.

Brawl? No! Argument!

"One night we saw a crowd converging on what looked like a street brawl near Lenin's Tomb in Red Square," said one delegate. "Surprisingly, it turned out to be only a friendly, if loud, argument between a Russian-speaking Argentinean and a Muscovite."

Though eager to discuss political generalities, most Russians were reluctant to debate Communist ideology with foreigners. Questions on Soviet censorship of news and ideology were referred to specific questions such as why certain publications were, of course, taboo. But while shrugging off specific questions such as why censorship was needed, many Russians admitted it had an antidote effect on their news.

This censorship was vividly illustrated for the NIAMD scientists who learned of the East-West Berlin baricade only after leaving Russia. Although this incident began while the biochemists were meeting in Moscow, it was inadequately reported on radio, TV, and in the Soviet press during that time.

Ruble Is Pegged

In Moscow, the delegates learned of another form of Soviet control. The rate of exchange for the ruble was pegged more favorably for non-Iron Curtain nations than basking in Red favor. "Any one planning a trip to Russia should find out which countries rate this privilege before making final monetary arrangements," one delegate observed.

After cutting his finger severely while shaving, one NIH scientist was rushed to a Moscow hospital for emergency treatment. He not only received prompt and efficient first aid but, when discharged from the hospital, found that his blood-splattered shirt had been freshly laundered and was ready for immediate wear.

Two delegates saw a view of Soviet life rarely shown to visitors. With a reluctant Russian acquaintance, they ventured into a workers' cafeteria in an old apartment house. Unlike Moscow's comfortably appointed dining spots, which catered to tourists and Red elite, the dimly-lit interior of this cafe offered only bare essentials. Its utilitarian furnishings and sparse menu were not designed to entice outsiders, and patrons greeted the strangers' intrusion with cool reserve.

"Our 40-cent dinners satisfied our curiosity," said one scientist, "but it seemed almost a Pyrrhic victory."

Unofficial participants in the scientific meetings held at the University of Moscow included many alert young Russian students. Products of the Soviet educational system, they were competing in the University's entrance examinations.

The delegates found the students eager to avail themselves of all sources of information. They were particularly attentive to the Westerners whom they questioned exhaustively. In fact, the students' attentiveness contrasted oddly with the welcome accorded the guest scientists by their Russian colleagues. As hosts, the latter were properly cordial, but their cordiality was reserved.

An NIAMD biochemist who gave his scientific paper in Russian at one of the sessions commented: "During the discussion period afterwards, I was questioned only (Continued on Page 5)
Two From NIMH Win Performance Awards

Bertha B. LeCompte, an Administrative Aide in the Child Development Research Branch, National Institute of Mental Health, received a Superior Performance Award in the amount of $160 at a recent NIMH ceremony.

In presenting the award, Dr. John C. Eberhardt, NIMH Associate Director for Intramural Research, commended Mrs. LeCompte for her contributions to the Branch's child research programs. At the same ceremony, Robert C. Cox, an Electronic Development Technician, Clinical Investigations, at St. Elizabeth Hospital, received a Superior Performance Award of $250.

ICNND Food Composition Table to Aid Latin American Nutrition Programs

Diet-conscious Latin Americans and calorie-counting travelers now can order whole turtle eggs or ash-teas from coconuts and pineapples—have been compiled into a Food Composition Table for use in Latin America by the Interdepartmental Committee on Nutrition for National Defense (ICNND) and the Institute of Nutrition of Central America and Panama (INCAP).

Aim Is Self-Help

Although of interest to the traveler, the 145-page text was designed primarily to aid in translating results of food research in the U.S. and Latin America into self-help programs in nutrition for areas of Latin nations.

Through the U. S. Public Health Service, the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare and five other government agencies cooperate in the ICNND, which is administered by the National Institute of Arthritis and Metabolic Diseases.

"This publication fills a need which has been recognized among inter-American nutritionists for more than 20 years," Surgeon General Luther L. Terry said.

"Much of the information on common Latin American foods in this text was compiled some time ago," he said, "but it had been scattered among a number of tables prepared in different countries. It was a big job to bring it together, bring the information up to date, include unpublished data, and put it in language that food specialists of both hemispheres can understand."

Using this text, nutritionists will be able to translate established food requirements developed in the United States into readily available resources of the Latin American countries. Proper use of local resources is particularly important in these nations because economic problems may limit the country's ability to import food.

Editions of the Food Composition Table are available in both English and Spanish and include charts consisting of a 16-part chemical breakdown of the edible portions of individual items. An example of an entry is Nabo (local Spanish name), which is also listed as Brassica rapa (scientific name), and by its English name—turnip.

Local Foods Valuable

The comprehensive work, which summarizes and expands previous information, points up the excellent nutritional value of many local South and Central American foods. Some of these foods, although virtually unknown outside of limited areas, are as nutritionally valuable as many American staples which would be too expensive in some areas.

Copies of the text in English are available from the ICNND, National Institute of Arthritis and Metabolic Diseases, Bethesda 14, Md. The Spanish edition is available through INCAP in Guatemala City, Guatemala, C.A.

Moscow

(Continued from Page 1)

in English."

NII delegates noted that the Russian scientists seemed ill at ease as hosts at this world-wide meeting of biochemists. They speculated that the novelty of the role might have contributed to this discomfort.

That biochemistry does not enjoy the prestige shared by most other scientific disciplines in Russia became apparent to foreign delegates at the meetings. Permitted limited entree to Soviet laboratories, they noticed that these Russian facilities were not as well-equipped as their counterparts in the U.S. Admitting that scarcity of equipment affects his research, one Russian scientist told his visitors that research tools are made available and allocated to Soviet scientists only for high priority research projects.

"But we saw evidence of their tremendous potential," one NIAMD delegate said. "When more tools are put at their disposal, these scientists will close the gap now existing between their biochemical achievements and those of the rest of the world. And they probably can do it in 10 years."

These massive buildings of the University of Moscow exemplify the city's more modern type of architecture.
Serious Public Health Threat Seen from Staph Infections

Prior to the fall of 1960 there was no generally satisfactory drug treatment for a patient badly infected with penicillin-resistant strains of Staphylococcus. Although there are now several greatly improved drugs, these do not constitute the complete answer to the serious public health problem caused by staphylococcal infections, according to a special report by the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases presented at the House hearings on appropriations for Fiscal Year 1963.

Staphylococci are abundant in our society the report points out. Probably 90 percent of the people have staphylococci on the skin or nose or some other area at all times. This leads to the perplexing and various problem of why everyone does not become infected.

Conversely, it is not known why some individuals are extremely susceptible to severe infections that subsequently can be controlled, although only by long and costly chemotherapy, or may even have a fatal outcome.

Predictions Difficult

It is difficult to predict by clinical or laboratory means what will happen to a person infected by staphylococci because disease caused by this microbe can range from a simple carrier state to general "blood poisoning" and death. Staphylococci stimulate very few measurable defense mechanisms in the body, and those which are stimulated, and can be measured, are difficult to assess with regard to their importance in aiding the host to eliminate the infection.

These three characteristics alone, the report states, make it virtually impossible to design a predictable successful therapeutic regimen. During the past year, NIAID scientists continued to obtain good clinical results from the administration of dimethoxyphenyl penicillin. They also initiated clinical trials of a multivalent penicillin resistant to the enzyme—penicillinase—which constitutes the major factor in the mechanism of drug resistance.

Treatment Effective

In addition to offering the distinct advantage of oral administration, this drug—yet unnamed—used by Bristol laboratories’ antibiotic appeared five to 10 times more effective than dimethoxyphenyl penicillin when tested in vivo in the laboratory to eliminate the infection. Treatment of 15 difficult cases of staphylococcal infection, NIAID clinicians have obtained cures or marked improvement and have observed only minimal side effects.

Such drugs are necessary for treatment of intractable staphylococcal infection and make continued development and testing obligatory, but only long usage can prove their absolute value.

Help yourself to better health
Give generously

NATIONAL HEALTH AGENCIES

There is always the possibility that bacteria will develop resistance against these new drugs and that individuals will develop allergic reactions to them.

Meanwhile, basic studies are making gains. Laboratory observations make probable the identification of penicillinase as a cyclic peptidease. Such an identification is necessary for even a partial answer to the question of the role and function of penicillinase in nature, and, more simply, to explain why a staphylococcal cell should possess such an enzyme.

An NIAID scientist this year reported an efficient method for preparing cell-free extracts of staphylococcal penicillinase. The method should prove useful wherever this substance is under extensive study.

Lab Discoveries Promising

Important beginnings have been made in the understanding of the biology of staphylococci. Laboratory discoveries about the metabolism of the bacteria extend the hope that invading staphylococci can be rendered less toxic by juggling their supply of iron nutrients.

Other NIAID investigations are aimed at developing a set of standardized tests for grading the relative virulence of various strains of staphylococci. Standardization of tests is prerequisite for any future immunization tests. The antigenic mimic of standard reference strains of Staphylococcus has been characterized. The techniques used may lead to a system for identifying pathogenic strains of the organism.

Many of NIAID’s grant-supported projects also concern the fundamental nature of the Staphylococcus and its host relationships. Studies at the University of Minnesota Medical School may help clarify the interaction of microorganism and host. This work strongly suggests a selective role for alpha toxin (the powerful necrotizing agent produced by Staphylococci) in abscess formation.

Studied by Grantees

Interactions of Staphylococcus and other organisms are also being studied by grantees. It has been observed by Drs. W. W. Arndt and R. E. Ritts of Georgetown University Schools of Medicine and Dentistry that the Proteus organism becomes lethal for laboratory mice when mixed with Staphylococcus. The finding opens the possibility for study of this phenomenon in natural infection. Clinicians report that Proteus infection is a considerable problem in the hospital. More than one-third of the grant-supported projects are related to the jeopardy imposed on the Nation’s hospitals by staphylococcal infections.

Dr. Plaut Will Address History Group Tonight

Dr. Alfred Plaut, Senior Pathologist at the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology, will be the speaker at the Washington Society for the History of Medicine’s spring meeting tonight (March 27) at the National Academy of Sciences, Building 1, at 8 o'clock. Visitors are welcome.

Dr. Plaut’s topic is “The Folklore of the Uterus.” The talk will be illustrated with slides.

Dr. Plaut, considered one of the outstanding general pathologists in this country, came here from Germany after World War I. He has been associated with the AFIP of the Walter Reed Army Medical Center since 1958.
Miss Quinn Commended
For 20 Years Service
As Red Cross Driver

Dorothy Quinn of the National Institute of Mental Health was publicly commended for 20 years of service as a volunteer driver with the American Red Cross (D.C. Chapter) Motor Service at an Awards Ceremony in the Departmental Auditorium on Tuesday evening, March 20. She received a Certificate of Recognition and a 20-year pin.

Miss Quinn, who prefers to be called "Dottie," has responded to night and weekend calls for the Motor Service since 1941. "I joined no war," she said. "Afterwards I continued with the Motor Service because of the need for drivers. We're a busy organization—war or no war."

Referring to herself as a "glorified truck driver," Miss Quinn said that operating Red Cross station wagons, bloodmobiles, clubmobiles, canteens, and ambulances, isn't the only chore she is called upon to perform. Sometimes she transports hospital patients to sports events, concerts or parties.

On these occasions she stays with the patients until it is time to take them back, often doubling as a dance partner, sometimes serving only as a sympathetic listener.

Miss Quinn, who is presently secretary to Dr. Robert A. Cohen, Director of Clinical Investigations, NIH, came to NIH in June 1950. She was formerly at Walter Reed General Hospital.

A native Washingtonian, Miss Quinn purchased in February an acre of land in the foothills of the El Yunque Mountains in Puerto Rico where she plans to live with her two French poodles, Cindy and Missy, following retirement from Civil Service.

CLINICAL
(Continued from Page 1)

be presiding officer at a general session; Dr. Seymour J. Kreshover, Acting Director, NIDR, presiding officer of a dental session; and William H. Erbine, Chief of the Radiopharmaceutical Service, CC Pharmacy Department, presiding officer of a pharmacy session.

In addition, participants in a panel on "Research at the NIH," which was held on April 7, will include Drs. Dorland J. Davis, Associate Director for Intramural Programs, NIAID; David E. Price, NIH Deputy Director; Stuart M. Sessoms, Associate Director for Collaborative Research, NCI; and Charles G. Zubrod, Director of Intramural Research, NCI.

The official meeting will close with a Headquarters session in the CC auditorium on Saturday morning, April 7. At this time Dr. Luther L. Terry, Surgeon General, will present the second annual John D. Lane, Jr. Award of $150 to an as yet undetermined winner.

The award, presented in honor of the Society's founder, will be given to a regular member of the Society—working primarily in the clinical care of patients—for excellence in clinical research.

Dr. Terry will also present several monetary awards to the authors of the best papers read at the meeting.

Registration for the meeting will be held in the CC lobby on April 7, from 1 to 5 p.m.; and April 5 and 6, from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Delegates may also register at the Woodner Hotel on April 4, from 1 to 9 p.m.; and on April 5, from 9 to 11 a.m.

NIH Is 'Very Good'

At NIH—which impressed Dr. Shumakov as "a very good scientific and clinical medical center"—the Soviet surgeons were asked by this reporter for specific examples of how cardiovascular surgical practice and research in the U.S. and U.S.S.R. might benefit by scientific exchange.

Dr. Romashov replied that although cardiovascular prostheses of various kinds are available in Russia, the more widespread clinical application of these devices—especially those relating to the use of artificial heart valves in the United States—was of special interest to Russian surgeons. Information exchanges in this field, he said, could enhance the further development of cardiac prostheses in Russia.

Cites Russian Superiority

American surgeons, on the other hand, could benefit from Russian advances in instrumentation, Dr. Zubtsovsky said. He cited as examples of Russian superiority in this field the various automatic suturing and stapling devices invented in Russia for joining blood vessel, bronchi, and gut segments.

Dr. Andrew G. Morrow, Chief of the NIH Surgery Branch, said that the Russian surgeons quickly adapted to NIH operating-room and ward routines and displayed a great interest in our techniques, especially those relating to the use of our heart-lung machine.

Prior to their departure for Moscow, the four Russian scientists will also visit heart surgery centers in New York, Boston, and Philadelphia.

Today 50 percent of Government employees are engaged in work that was unknown prior to World War II.
NIH Exhibit Illustrates Clinical Studies, Shows Need for Cooperation

Participants and others attending five major medical meetings this spring will have an opportunity to see an exhibit prepared for the NIH Clinical Center, titled, "Selected Current Clinical Studies of the National Institutes of Health."

The exhibit presents illustrations representative of the types of clinical studies under way, and spells out NIH's need for the cooperation of practicing physicians in referring certain categories of patients to the Clinical Center as possible participants in the studies.

Emphasized are current clinical studies on general anesthesia, systemic fungal infections, temporal lobe seizures, cystic fibrosis, plasma cell myeloma, cardiac shunts, and familial factors in mental disorders.

Information concerning the nature of the studies and the types of patients required, as well as patient referral procedures will be available from attendants at the exhibit. In addition, technical details pertaining to specific studies will be provided in leaflets prepared especially for distribution at the meetings.

The exhibit was designed by Walter Ashe of the Medical Arts and Photography Branch, DRS, and constructed by the Shops Section of the Division's Plant Engineering Branch.

The schedule of exhibit showings:
- April 4-6, Baltimore: Medical and Chirurgical Faculty of State of Maryland.
- April 29, Atlantic City: American Federation of Clinical Research.
- May 10-13, Roanoke: Virginia Academy of General Practice.

NIH Basketball Team Finishes Season With Impressive Record of Games Won

The NIH basketball team has ended its first year of extramural play with an impressive record of games won and the potential for a championship team next season.

Grants for Research, Fellowships in February Exceed $18 Million

The Public Health Service announced the award of 787 research grants and 135 fellowships totaling $18,264,663 during February.

The awards, which include 19 of the research career type, are made by two of the Service's operating bureaus, the National Institutes of Health and the Bureau of State Services. NIH's Division of Research Grants acts as coordinator.

Applications are reviewed by two separate panels, one concerned solely with scientific merit, and the other with program relevance as well. All awards are made on a competitive basis.

Of the total, $4,458,300 was allocated to support 191 new research grants, fellowships, and research career awards. The remaining $13,806,363 was for the continuation of 666 previously approved research grants totaling $12,517,772, and 65 fellowships totaling $288,591.

CC Receptionists Need Information Concerning Scheduled Meetings

NIH is a popular place in terms of visitors. More than a thousand scientists, physicians, and related professional and lay persons visit here each month, according to records of the Special Events Section, CC Information Office.

Many of these visitors come to NIH to attend a meeting, conference, or seminar in the Clinical Center, and a large percentage stop at the Reception Desk in the CC lobby to ask for information.

Margaret A. Badger, CC Administrative Officer, points out that the receptionists are always happy to provide information concerning the time and location of specific meetings. Frequently, however, Mrs. Fay Povich and her assistant receptionists are handicapped because NIH staff members responsible for scheduling meetings fail to notify the Reception Desk about the upcoming event.

VIPs Kept Waiting

Consequently the receptionists must keep important visitors waiting while phone calls are made to obtain the needed information.

During evening hours and weekends, when offices are not staffed, lack of advance notification concerning conferences, classes, and social functions on the reservation may result in serious delays and disappointments for these visitors.

Miss Badger requests those responsible for planning meetings involving attendance by people from more than one Branch or Section notify the CC Reception Desk by phone (Ext. 3141) or by transmitting a copy of the announcement or memorandum prepared for participants.