OUR CLINICAL CENTER GROWS

SUPERSTRUCTURE BIDS TO BE OPENED AUG. 23

Rapid progress is again being made in construction of our 13-story Clinical Center after delays caused by strikes and weather conditions. The West end of the building is now up to first-floor level.

Bids for erection of the superstructure -- largest contract in the NIH expansion program -- will be opened on August 23. It is understood that at least six firms will submit figures. (Complete plans and specifications for the superstructure were placed on the market for bids on June 29.)

Dr. Jack Masur, Director of the Clinical Center, has announced that two new staff members are currently reviewing plans for equipment and operation of nursing facilities and services. These are Miss Mary Corcoran, psychiatric nurse consultant from the National Institute of Mental Health, and Miss Lois Gordner, nurse consultant from the PHS Division of Hospital Facilities, who have recently been loaned to the Office of the Research Facilities Planning Committee.

Miss Clara Belle Tavis, Dietitian Officer, U.S. Marine Hospital, Seattle, has returned to the West Coast after a two-month temporary assignment with the Planning Committee.

The Clinical Center will be completed in 1952. It will house the National Institute of Mental Health and hospital and laboratory facilities of the Experiment Biology and Medicine.
Science Elsewhere

Relief from Bee Sting

Allergy studies on bee venom have led to the use of an antihistamine to obtain relief from the symptoms of a bee sting. In the June 18 issue of JAMA, Dr. W. T. Strauss says: "The more fact that relief is obtained so rapidly with the use of an antihistamine ointment (theophylline) lends credence to the theory that histamine produces many of the immediate symptoms of a sting."

Noise Menaces Health

Long-continued noise is a threat to health and destroys efficiency, according to Dr. W. E. Grove in the June 25 issue of JAMA. Besides becoming jumpy and irritable, he says, one's hearing may be impaired. Measures to control industrial noise are urged, especially since unhealthy workers are a liability to employers.

NCI SCIENTIST FIRST TO MACHINE-MILK MICE

The mouse-milking machine that helped Columbia University scientists to isolate a cancer virus was originally constructed eight years ago at NCI by Dr. Herbert Kahler. According to the Cancer Control Letter of July 1, Dr. Kahler advised Columbia's Dr. Samuel Graff, whose "dairy" milks thousands of mice to get two quarts of fluid a year.

DENTAL RESEARCH GRANTS ANNOUNCED

Grants of $160,708 by the National Institute of Dental Research, to provide continued support for dental research projects at non-Federal institutions, were recently announced. Twenty-five projects will be supported at 16 institutions located in eight states and the District of Columbia.

The grants were recommended by the National Advisory Dental Research Council at its June meeting.

NO. 5 IN A SERIES

STUDIES IN NUTRITION

Current research in the Section on the Biochemistry and Physiology of Nutrition, EBMI, headed by Dr. James M. Hundley, is rooted in the fundamental pellagra studies of Dr. Joseph Goldberger. In 1915 Dr. Goldberger demonstrated the nutritional origin of pellagra, thus contradicting many theories ascribing the disease either to infectious microorganisms or to an intoxication from products developed in corn by bacteria during spoilage.

Dr. Goldberger formulated two hypotheses regarding pellagra, both of which led to fruitful findings after his death. His first hypothesis connected pellagra with a vitamin deficiency; the second singled out specifically certain amino acids in the diet as having a major role in this disease. Both hypotheses have since been verified.

Dr. C. A. Elvehjem and associates confirmed Dr. Goldberger's first hypothesis in 1938 when they discovered nicotinic acid, one of the B vitamins. Drs. W. A. Kreinh and C. A. Elvehjem, of the University of Wisconsin, established Dr. Goldberger's second hypothesis in 1945 when they demonstrated the dietary interchangeability of the amino acid tryptophane and nicotinic acid.

The dietary findings of Dr. Goldberger implicating "black tongue" in dogs as the canine analogue of pellagra in man provided an essential tool for the discovery of nicotinic acid. Virtually all the advances made in early pellagra studies were made possible through the experimental use of dogs. In 1938, studies on human volunteers were undertaken by Dr. William H. Sebrell, now Director of EBMI, and Dr. Roy E. Butler, who prepared diets similar to the one given to dogs. A pellagrous condition (then described as pellagra sine pellagra) was soon observed in the volunteers. Subsequent studies led to the recognition of another of the B vitamin deficiency diseases now known as arboflavinosis.

There are still many mysteries in pellagra, and studies are continuing in the Section on the Biochemistry and Physiology of Nutrition under Dr. Hundley's direction. One question which is still very controversial concerns the role of the intestinal bacteria in the synthesis of nicotinic acid. Some workers have held that tryptophane cured pellagra in animals by causing the intestinal bacteria to manufacture nicotinic acid. Dr. Hundley has been able to show that this is not true by removing the entire intestinal tract from rats and demonstrating that the tissues could still make the vitamin when tryptophane was given. Other studies have shown that certain types of carbohydrates have a marked influence on the requirement for nicotinic acid, an influence that is related to the demands of the tissues when burning certain sugars rather than an influence on the intestinal bacteria.

Studies using heavy isotopes have been conducted by Dr. Hundley and Dr. Howard W. Bond. This work has shown that the principal excretory product of nicotinic acid in the urine is a compound called N'-methyl nicotinamide. Dr. Bond has synthesized tryptophane labelled with heavy carbon. Studies using the compound have shed some light on the mechanism by which the body transforms tryptophane to nicotinic acid and N'-methylnicotinamide. Other workers in California and elsewhere have contributed important information on this mechanism so that most of the steps in this transformation are now known.

FREE CHEMISTRY CLASS

Did you know that a free class in inorganic chemistry is held regularly by Mr. Theodore D. Perrine of the Laboratory of Chemistry and Chemotherapy, EBMI? Purpose of the class is better to prepare laboratory assistants for work requiring some fundamental knowledge of chemistry.

If the demand is sufficiently great, the course may be repeated this winter. Inquiries should be directed to Mr. Perrine on Ext. 721.
DR. MEADER ATTENDING CONFERENCE IN PARIS

Dr. Ralph G. Meader, Chief of the Cancer Grants Branch, NCI, is now attending the International Cancer Research Commission conference in Paris. He will later visit various institutions in England, Scotland, France, Denmark, the Netherlands, and Belgium.

DR. ANDREWS CAUTIONS INDUSTRY ON RADIATION

The increasing use of radioactive materials presents a new challenge to the industrial hygienist, according to Dr. Howard L. Andrews, Chief of the Section on Nuclear & Radiation Biology, EBMI.

In the July issue of the Industrial Hygiene Newsletter, Dr. Andrews presents a survey of radiation hazards in current industry.

Emphasizing the early recognition of dangerous conditions, Dr. Andrews points out that serious radiation injuries can be produced with no detectable symptoms until long after the damage has been done.

The production of cancer is one of the most insidious hazards from overexposure to high-energy radiation and will undoubtedly pose some difficult medico-legal questions, according to Dr. Andrews. For example, if a person develops cancer several years after a serious overexposure, will it be ascribed to radiation or to spontaneous development?

Other radiological problems enumerated by Dr. Andrews include:

1. A method of determining the amount of radioactive substances in the body, either labile or fixed in the tissues.
2. Development of new methods for the measurement of biological effects.
3. A more concise determination of permissible concentrations in the body.

To minimize radiation hazards, Dr. Andrews advises the use of appropriate shielding material, increasing the distance from the radiation source, and reducing the time of exposure.

Calendar of Events

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Meeting</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Place</th>
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<tr>
<td>July 22</td>
<td>“On the Problem of Action and Inactivation of the Estrogenic Hormone.” Dr. Bernhard Zondek of Hebrew University, Israeli.*</td>
<td>3:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Wilson Hall</td>
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<tr>
<td>July 22</td>
<td>“Professional Research and Administration.” Dr. Robert W. Bolwell of George Washington University.*</td>
<td>2:00 p.m.</td>
<td>244 Bldg. 1, Naval Medical Center</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sept. 8-9</td>
<td>Symposium on Brucellosis*</td>
<td>9:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Wilson Hall</td>
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*Open meeting.

NETHERLANDS ACADEMY HONORS DR. WYCKOFF

Dr. Ralph W. G. Wyckoff, Chief of the Section on Molecular Biophysics, EBMI, has been elected a foreign member of the Royal Netherlands Academy of Sciences.

ANTIMALARIAL DRUGS

A concise report on the merits of new antimalarial drugs, by Dr. W. Clark Cooper of the Laboratory of Tropical Diseases, NIM, was published in the June 10 issue of Public Health Reports.

DR. EDDY IS QUOTED IN AMERICAN MERCURY

Dr. Nathan B. Eddy of the Laboratory of Chemistry and Chemotherapy, EBMI, is quoted as his pharmacological authority by the author of an article on “Newer Pain Killers” in the July issue of American Mercury.

LOST AND FOUND DEPT.

Have you lost a ring or a belt? A pair of glasses or a purse (complete with change)?

These items, and many others, can be retrieved, after proper identification, at 18 Bldg. 1.

DENTAL RESEARCHERS PRESENT FIVE PAPERS

Five papers by staff members of the National Institute of Dental Research were included among the 91 presented at the 27th General Meeting of the International Association for Dental Research, held June 24-26 in Chicago.

Co-author of one of the papers was Dr. Ralph W. G. Wyckoff of EBMI.

The papers:


“Citrate content of sound and carious teeth” -- I. Zipkin and K. A. Pile.

“Effects of some chemical substitutes on growth of oral micro-organisms and ability to dissolve tooth salts” -- R. M. Stephan.

Dr. Francis A. Arnold, Jr., Assistant Director of NIDR and a member of the Executive Council of the Association, attended the meeting.

Drivers of government vehicles can be personally sued if found at fault in an accident.
GROUP HEALTH ASSN.

Group Health Association, a medical service that provides doctors' care as well as hospitalization, is again offering membership to the employees of FSA.

Group Health is a member-owned nonprofit agency, whose object is to provide medical service for its members on a prepayment basis. It maintains a staff of physicians and two health centers. It provides comprehensive medical service at home, at hospital, and at the health centers.

Two kinds of membership are available -- one for medical care alone, and the other for medical care with hospitalization. Under either type, members receive comprehensive medical care for the payment of an initial membership fee and monthly dues.

Dental services have recently been added, and comprehensive dental services will be available to all members on a fee basis as soon as present staff and facilities can be expanded.

If you want more detailed information, phone the Promotion Department at EX. 8000.

PIANO FOR WILSON HALL

Through the generosity of the Welfare & Recreation Association, NIH now has a piano in Wilson Hall.

The piano will be used by the NIH Glee Club for regular rehearsals, and it will also be available for other purposes.

According to Mr. Aeneas Collins, President of the Association, "the piano was bought most reasonably and is an indication of the good-will and pleasure the Association constantly fosters."

NEED TRANSPORTATION?

If you're having transportation trouble, perhaps the Employee Relations Office can help you.

If you do not drive a car and would like to share a ride, or if you drive your own car and would be willing to accommodate some riders, there is a Transportation Questionnaire waiting for you in 113 Bldg. 1.

There is particular need for drivers coming through downtown Washington, and from the S. E. and S. W. sections of the city.

Additional information on public and private transportation may be had by calling Ext. 2071.

CAN YOU CARRY A TUNE?
THEN YOU'RE ELIGIBLE

The melodious voices you hear harmonizing in Wilson Hall these days belong to the members of the NIH Glee Club.

Newly organized under the direction of Dr. Willis C. Beasley of Public Health Methods, the Club had its first meeting of the season on July 5. Despite the heat, 16 members engaged in concentrated practice, with Mr. George W. Cornwall of Tropical Diseases at the piano. (One of the members is even alleged to have returned from his vacation to be present!)

While the Glee Club sings primarily for its own pleasure, other NIH music lovers may have a chance to hear it next Yule tide if not sooner. Upon request, the Club will sing at any appropriate ceremony.

The Glee Club is open to suggestions for a better name -- but please don't suggest the Anvil Chorus. Remember, it is an upsurging of the spirit that gives incentive to these songsters. Send your written suggestions to Mrs. Helen F. Matthews at 101-A Bldg. 1.

And if you like to sing, and want to join the club, just tell one of the following:

Mrs. Amy L. Nifong, 117 Bldg. 1
Mrs. Margaret L. Keister, 1 Bldg. 2.
Miss Helen L. Trembley, 316 Bldg. 3
Mr. Harry W. Diehl, 232 Bldg. 4
Mr. George W. Cornwall, 102 Bldg. 5
Miss Mary Ann Thomas, 9-B Bldg. 6
Miss Mary Alice Dean, 2303 T-6
Mr. Donald L. Hollabaugh, 215 Bldg. 7
Mr. Wayne D. Levillain, 4 Bldg. 8

CLINICAL CENTER
(Continued from Page 1)

Institute, the Microbiological Institute, the National Cancer Institute, and the National Heart Institute.

The Center will combine within a single structure both hospital and laboratory facilities, including the usual features of a 500-bed general hospital together with medical and psychiatric social service, physical and occupational therapy, and rehabilitation services. The scientific laboratories will occupy two-thirds of the building.

NEW PEOPLE AT N. I. H

Dr. Milton J. Allen, NCI-Research
Mrs. Betty O'Brien Baker, NCI-Tech
Mr. Leroy W. Barthlow, EO-LAB
Miss Sara A. Beall, NIH-RG
Miss Alice L. Blackmore, MI-Insec
Mrs. Olivia W. Coulter, NCI-Reports
Mr. Orville F. Crutchfield, EBMI-LPB
Miss Bertha E. Cunningham, NIDR-OD
Mrs. Elizabeth B. Davison, OD-RFPC
Mr. Murray Eden, NCI-Research
Dr. Stephen P. Findlay, EBMI-C&C
Mr. Willard F. Hallock, RG&F-GFA
Mr. Joseph W. Kramarczyk, EBMI-B&N
Miss Mary L. Lacaman, RG&F-GFA
Mr. Barnett B. Lester, NIH-Info
Mr. George W. Luttermoser, MITrop
Miss Judy C. Mack, RG&F-GFA
Mrs. Hazel F. Milroy, EO-Fisc
Mr. Keith A. Pelice, EO-Bldgs
Mr. James W. Pratt, EBMI-C&C
Mrs. Frances Powell Price, EBMI-B&N
Mr. James W. Robb, Jr., NIDR-O/BC
Mr. Leslie E. Sanders, EBMI-C&C
Mr. John S. Small, EO-Mail
Mrs. Mabel E. Smith, NCI-Research
Mrs. Shirley Stein, NCI-Research
Miss Jane D. Sundelof, EO-Pers
Mr. Irving H. Taylor, Jr., EO-Pers
Mr. Phillips M. Taylor, EO-Fisc
Miss Mary Ann Thomas, NCI-Research
Miss Elva May Wright, NIH-Info

Note: In addition, 90 summer employees entered on duty here during June.

Selected Reading

Recent additions to the Library:


15 July 1949 NIH Record