DR. SEBRELL ASSUMES NIH DIRECTORSHIP

DYER LECTURESHP DEDICATED AT NIH

In honor of Dr. Dyer upon his retirement from PHS, the R. E. Dyer Lectureship was announced in ceremonies in front of the NIH Administration Building, September 27.

The lectureship awards will be made for outstanding contributions to medical or biological knowledge. The recipient will deliver a lecture at NIH, selecting his own subject.

An estimated 700 persons attended the dedication, including officials of the Federal Security Agency and Public Health Service, special guests, and NIH personnel. Talks were given by Mr. Oscar Ewing, FSA Administrator; Dr. Leonard A. Scheele, Surgeon General; and Dr. Dyer. Mrs. Luke Wilson and former NIH Directors G. M. McCoy and L. R. Thompson were present. Dr. Norman Topping, Associate Director of NIH, presided.

"The people of the United States and the Government," said Mr. Ewing, "know and appreciate the contributions that Dr. Dyer has made to the happiness and better health of humanity." Mr. Ewing expressed the regret of Dr. Dyer's friends at his departure.

Dr. Scheele traced the growth of NIH under Dr. Dyer's direction. The Institutes, he pointed out, are now "in the forefront of this Nation's resources for medical research," at a time when such resources are demanded for national defense. In concluding, Dr. Scheele presented a scroll, from which he read, "In appreciation of his devotion to science and to express deep appreciation of his services to the Public Health Service, the people of the United States and the Government grant to Dr. Dyer the R. E. Dyer Lectureship, which he will deliver at NIH, selecting his own subject."

"In light of an outstanding career in nutrition research and public health administration, Dr. Sebrell is eminently qualified for the position. His experience will be especially valuable in meeting the present need for emphasis upon research in the chronic diseases."

Prior to his promotion, Dr. Sebrell was Director of the Experimental Biology and Medicine Institute, NIH. Dr. Floyd S. Daft is now Acting Director of EBMI.

Dr. Sebrell began his research career under Dr. Joseph Goldberger, world-famous PHS scientist who discovered that pellagra is a dietary-deficiency disease. A notable contribution of Dr. Sebrell and collaborators was the recognition of the deficiency disease riboflavinosis.

Other achievements of Dr. Sebrell and associates include the discovery that liver cirrhosis in rats can be treated successfully with dietary supplements; the finding that pantothenic acid deficiency damages the adrenals; and the development of methods for producing and treating anemias in experimental animals.

HEALTH OFFICERS TO MEET AT NIH

Scientific sessions of the 1950 Annual Conference of the State and Territorial Health Officers Association will be held at NIH October 24-25.

This is the 48th annual meeting of the Association with PHS. Authorities on hospital construction and mental health will also attend. Presiding will be Dr. Wilton Halverson, Director of the State Department of Public Health, California.

Mr. Oscar Ewing, FSA Administrator, will give a luncheon talk at the Naval Medical Center. At NIH, the Institute directors will describe research activities. A program related to the problems of the health officer is planned, consisting of talks, demonstrations, and visits to NIH laboratories.

The Clinical Center, the Research Grants and Fellowships Program, and research in ACTH and cortisone will be discussed.

(See Dyer Lectureship, Page 2)
No. 33 in a Series

Sugar Research at N I H

Many notable advances in the study of carbohydrates are due to Dr. Claude S. Hudson, Chief of the Laboratory of Chemistry and Chemotherapy, EBMI. Dr. Hudson and his collaborators are leaders in the identification, characterization, and synthesis of sugars.

Of the three classes of foodstuffs (carbohydrates, fats, proteins), the carbohydrates, which include the sugars, are the prime source of energy. They are universally distributed throughout living matter.

For years the study of carbohydrates was delayed by the difficulty of obtaining them in pure crystalline form. Then, in 1884, Emil Fischer found that phenylhydrazine, a chemical which he had discovered, reacts with sugars to give readily purifiable, crystalline compounds called phenylosazones. These compounds enabled chemists to identify several sugars and even to synthesize some.

At the turn of the century, however, important details of the molecular structures of sugars were still uncertain. Dr. Hudson worked out a series of generalizations relating sugar structure with optical activity—power of the molecule to rotate polarized light rays. Known as "Hudson's rules," these generalizations advanced and stimulated carbohydrate research throughout the world.

Dr. Hudson and his co-workers have found that Fischer's somewhat unstable phenylosazones may be converted into very stable crystalline substances, phenylsotriazoles, which are useful for the identification of sugars. Indeed, their use in another laboratory threw light on the structure of streptomycin.

Hudson and others contributed general rules regarding the action of the organism Acetobacter suboxydans on sugar alcohols. And over the years, many reagents and synthetic processes have been discovered or introduced into sugar chemistry in Dr. Hudson's laboratory.

Through the American Chemical Society, "The Collected Papers of C. S. Hudson," edited by his collaborators Drs. Hann and Richtmyer, were recently published in two volumes by Academic Press.

DR. SEBRELL Cont'd

During World War II, Dr. Sebrell acted as a co-director of the National Nutrition Program, and in subsequent years he conducted studies of the nutritional status of civilians in Germany. In addition to international work, he has pioneered in establishing nutrition programs in State and local health departments.

Dr. Sebrell was born in Portsmouth, Va., in 1901. He received his M.D. degree from the University of Virginia.

DR. SWEET, M I UNIT HEAD, DIES

With deep regret, NIH members learned of Dr. Lewis K. Sweet's sudden death on September 24. Dr. Sweet, 48, was Chief of the new Clinical Unit of MI. He died of a heart attack at his home in Falls Church, Va.

Though located at Gallinger Municipal Hospital, D.C., Dr. Sweet had assumed the duties of his new position at NIH. He was engaged in clinical research, preparatory to directing studies on infectious and tropical diseases at the Clinical Center.

From 1938 until his appointment at NIH in July 1950, Dr. Sweet served as Chief Medical Officer in Pediatrics at Gallinger Hospital. He was born in Brownwood, Texas, in 1902, and received his M.D. degree from Harvard Medical School in 1929.

He is survived by his wife, Mrs. Mary Heath Sweet, and a son, John, aged 12.

M I REPORTS TULAREMIA FROM DRINKING WATER

Tularemia bacillus, known to infect man mainly through wild rabbits, was reported by the Microbiological Institute, NIH, to have been found in a domestic water supply.

Infection of four human beings by tularemia bacillus through drinking water, the first of such cases reported in America, was described September 22 in Public Health Reports by Dr. W. L. Jellison of MI's Rocky Mountain Laboratory. The patients had drunk highly contaminated water in Gallatin County, Montana.

Dr. Carl Larson, Director of the Rocky Mountain Laboratory, stated, "There is no cause for alarm, as town and city water systems kill the bacillus through chlorination. And if need be, home chlorination or boiling of water in rural areas would effect control."

Tularemia frequently develops into a typhoid-like state or atypical pneumonia.
Here and There

Community Chest

The annual Community Chest Drive continues at NIH throughout October. Give to the keyman in your Institute. Your contribution will help more than 100 organizations. Our quota is $11,965, which works out to $1.60 per $1,000 of salary for every NIH employee. Dr. H. W. Chalkley, NCI, is chairman of the drive at NIH; Dr. Leonard Karel, RGF, is associate chairman. Remember, you do not give to, but through, the Community Chest!

Honors

The American Crystallographic Association recently appointed Dr. Ralph W. G. Wyckoff, EBMI, as representative to the National Research Council, with assignment to the Division of Mathematical and Physical Sciences.

Photo Exhibit

An exhibition of photographs taken by FSA employees will be held on the fifth floor of the Federal Security Building, October 24 to November 10. Send photographs to Homer Greenfield, Room 1709, FSA Building. For information, call Ervin Liljegren, EBMI, Ext. 762.

Lecture Tour

Dr. Herman Yagoda, physical chemist with EBMI, left October 6 for an extended lecture tour sponsored by the American Chemical Society. He will speak on "Photographic Emulsions as Nuclear Particle Detectors" at Clark University (Massachusetts), University of Vermont, M.I.T., Brown University, and the University of Maine.

Exchange Fellow

Dr. Douglas Hamer, biochemist, has arrived from England to spend a year studying enzyme chemistry in the laboratory of Dr. Jesse Greenstein, NCI. Dr. Hamer, from the University of Birmingham, is an exchange fellow of the American Cancer Society.

CURED CANCER GROUP TOURS NCI LABS

Twelve members of the Cured Cancer Club, a District of Columbia group, visited NCI on October 3. Dr. Heller, NCI Director, discussed the program of the Institute, and the group visited Building 6.

"The club is unique," said Mrs. Oliver S. Kern, president, "in that membership is open only to persons who have had cancer. Our purpose is to spread assurance that cancer can be cured."

The club has about 29 members of both sexes. They have been free of the disease for periods of 1 to 22 years.

TO DR. DYER FROM HIS FRIENDS....

Dr. Scheele presents R. E. Dyer Lectureship scroll. Left to right: Dr. L. A. Scheele, Mr. Oscar Ewing, Drs. W. R. Schreell, R. E. Dyer, and Norman Topping.

DR. SCHEELE TO SPEAK AT CANCER MEETING

Dr. Leonard A. Scheele, Surgeon General, will deliver "A Progress Report on Cancer" at the third annual scientific meeting of the Detroit Institute of Cancer Research, Detroit, Mich., October 17. He will present a general review of the advances made in cancer diagnosis and therapy over the past 20 years.

The Detroit Institute conducts basic cancer research. Recently founded, the organization is supported principally by the Michigan Cancer Society. NCI has also been a contributor of funds.

Calendar of Events

Oct. 20-21  Natl. Advisory Health Council*  10:00 a.m.  Rm. 1057, T-6
Oct. 23-24  Natl. Advisory Dental Research Council*  10:00 a.m.  Rm. 2025, T-6
Oct. 25  Biology Discussion Group: "Transformations in Plants" by Drs. Mark Woods and H. G. duBuy  3:00 p.m.  Top Cottage
Oct. 25-26  Natl. Advisory Heart Council*  10:00 a.m.  Rm. 1057, T-6
Oct. 27-29  Natl. Advisory Cancer Council*  10:00 a.m.  Rm. 2025, T-6

*Closed meeting.

NIH Record  Vol. II, No. 18 - 16 October 1950
A familiar figure at NIH is friendly, enthusiastic Clarence May, Chief of the Buildings Management Branch. Meeting responsibilities that grow with NIH itself, he is often seen hurrying about, directing mechanics, checking equipment—in general, keeping things shipshape. His organization of 245 employees includes several shops—refrigeration, plumbing, paint, metal, electrical, and cabinet—and provides services such as custodial, telephone, engineering, planning of buildings and grounds, refrigeration, and transportation.

Mr. May is the scientists' best friend. Whatever the problem of equipment—whether a laboratory is needed or just a workbench—Mr. May is the man they call.

He is often needed to supervise field projects. Recently he went to Hot Springs, Ark., to direct alterations at an NCI laboratory. He worked on research labs at the Baltimore Marine Hospital. And he supervised major repairs at the Rocky Mountain Laboratory in Montana.

The most memorable event of his career, says Mr. May, was in October 1940 when President Roosevelt came out to dedicate NIH. With only three days' notice, Mr. May's men had to plan and build platforms, benches, ramps. "The only mishap," Mr. May recalls, "was that we left a broom on the speakers' stand. There it stood, all through the ceremony."

Clarence W. May has been with PHS since 1920, and at NIH since the first buildings were erected in 1937. He wants to see NIH "continue to run in top condition."

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LEDERLE MUMPS VACCINE STems FROM MI STUDIES

A vaccine to prevent mumps, a disease attacking three quarters of the American people, was recently released by Lederle, bringing the pioneer work of Dr. Karl Habel of NIH to a stage of practical application.

The vaccine itself, prepared from cultures on chick embryo, was developed by Dr. Victor Cabasso of the Lederle Laboratories, Pearl River, N. Y. The adaptation of the mumps virus to chick embryo was previously worked out by Dr. Habel, Chief of the Laboratory of Infectious Diseases, Microbiological Institute.

In general, the vaccine is produced as follows. Mumps virus is injected into eggs, which are then incubated. Next, fluid from the allantois, an organ of the embryo, is removed from the egg and centrifuged, yielding the virus sediment. This is inactivated with formaldehyde, and standardized with respect to immunizing capacity.

In 1945, Dr. Habel worked out the cultivation method, which made the virus available in unlimited quantities. Later he showed that the virus-containing material, inactivated by ether or ultraviolet light, protected monkeys against experimental infection. Other investigators, such as Levens and Enders, also contributed.

Through the American Red Cross, 130 NIH members helped to save lives by donating blood at Wilson Hall, September 20. Of 148 volunteers, 130 were found eligible. They donated 124 pints.

As Red Cross nurses prepared volunteers, histories were taken and blood types determined. A pint of blood was the maximum amount accepted from each person. Twelve of the donors had contributed on previous occasions. Of these 'repeats,' F. L. Schmehl, RGF, has given the most—24 pints. Other repeats were Agnes Cosgrove, NIMH, and W. M. Cissel, Bldgs., who have given 14 and 9 pints, respectively.

RECREATION & WELFARE BEGINS FALL PROGRAM

The Recreation and Welfare Association of NIH has begun its fall season with a program of broad scope, states Aeneas Collins, president.

A new lending library, headed by Mrs. Dorothy Amos, is being formed, and a book club is planned. Donations will be appreciated (Room 113, Bldg. 1).

Four square dances will be held; the glee club will perform at Christmas time; arrangements have been made to present lectures by leaders in art and literature.

And let us not forget the Hamsters! They plan to produce a bigger and funnier extravaganza this year. Jack Beecher, head Hamster (Room 137, Bldg. 1), would appreciate skits, songs, ideas.