DR. SPENCER TO LEAVE NIH JANUARY 31

Dr. Roscoe R. Spencer of the National Cancer Institute will retire from Federal service January 31 after 37 years in the Commissioned Corps of the Public Health Service.

Dr. Spencer will assume new duties as Special Lecturer in Cancer, sponsored by the Virginia State Medical Society, the Old Dominion Medical Society, the Virginia Division of the American Cancer Society, and the University of Virginia. His main assignment will be to conduct seminars on cancer for physicians throughout Virginia.

The career of Dr. Spencer has been marked by many achievements. Following his graduation from Johns Hopkins Medical School, Dr. Spencer entered the Public Health Service. During World War I, he served as sanitary advisor to the Navy Department and from 1919 to 1921, he was in Pensacola, Florida, where he supervised measures to prevent bubonic plague.

Among the most notable of his accomplishments was his participation in the development of the first vaccine effective against Rocky Mountain spotted fever. The year was 1922 and at that time "tick fever" was almost always fatal. Therefore the development of a successful vaccine was a great step forward in the control of infectious diseases and a boon to the populations of tick-infested areas.

The story of his work is told in the chapter "Spencer in the Happy Valley" which appears in Man Against Death by Paul de Kruif. In 1930 an exhibit on Dr. Spencer's Rocky Mountain spotted fever work won him the Gold Medal of the American Medical Association.

When the National Cancer Institute was created in 1937, Dr. Spencer was assigned to assist in its organization. In 1939 he was appointed Assistant Chief of the Institute, and in 1943 he was appointed Chief. Dr. Spencer resigned as Chief of NCI in 1947, to devote full time to research activities and administration of NCI's Professional Training Program. Since that time, Dr. Spencer's research has centered on studies of the process of cell survival and adaptation, and the relation of this process to cancer.

In addition to his many scientific papers, Dr. Spencer has written numerous articles in which scientific information is presented in terms understandable to the layman. In 1944 he was awarded the Clement Cleveland Medal for his work in cancer health education.

Dr. Spencer's latest article, "Staying Alive," was recently printed in the Saturday Review of Literature and is now being translated by the State Department for publication in foreign magazines and newspapers.

Dr. Spencer was born in King William County, Virginia, in 1888. He received his A.B. degree from Richmond College (now the University of Richmond) in 1909. In 1943 (See Dr. Spencer, Page 3)

INSTRUMENTATION SERIES TO BEGIN

A series of ten lectures on instrumentation will begin at NIH early in February. These lectures are designed to give NIH personnel a greater appreciation of the potentialities of scientific instruments in medical research.

Outstanding experts who have contributed to instrument development are being invited to present the lectures, which will be combined with demonstrations of various instruments in operation.

Dr. R. Bowling Barnes, former vice president of the American Optical Company and previously director of physics, American Cyanamid Company, will deliver the introductory lecture at 4:00 o'clock on February 5 in Wilson Hall. Dr. Barnes pioneered the application of physical research instrumentation to industrial chemistry. He will speak on the philosophy of instrumentation.

Because of the wide interest in instrumentation, an inter-Institute committee initiated and is sponsoring the lecture series. Members of the committee are Dr. F. S. Brackett, Chairman; Drs. Robert L. Bowman, Murray C. Brown, Harry Eagle and Herbert Kahler; and Robert H. Grant, Executive Officer and Secretary.

Lectures will be spaced as nearly as possible at 2-week intervals, probably on Tuesdays at 4 o'clock. Exact titles and dates will be announced. Persons planning to attend the lectures should call Mr. Grant, Ext. 2116.

A tentative program on microscopy and spectroscopy has been drawn up by the committee for this year. These lectures include such subjects as application of television techniques to microscopy in the... (See Lectures, Page 4)
No. 65 of a Series

The first clinical unit to be staffed for the Clinical Center is NHI’s Clinic of General Medicine and Experimental Therapeutics. Now in its second year of operation at the Baltimore PHS Hospital, the unit was established by Dr. James A. Shannon, NHI’s Associate Director in Charge of Research. It represents a joint operation between the Division of Hospitals and the National Institutes of Health. Dr. Luther L. Terry, Clinic director, is also serving as Chief of Medical Service at the Baltimore Hospital.

The core of this research unit is a group of clinicians who were conducting studies in cardiovascular disease with support from NHL. The unit has been molded into a research team well-versed in clinical research, medical care, and teaching. It will continue operation in Baltimore until the Clinical Center is ready for occupancy.

The team is composed of workers who are especially interested in the application of research methods at the patient level. The clinical observation of new drugs and new techniques as they come from the laboratory is one of its principal functions. However, fundamental studies of the physiological aspects of heart disease are receiving considerable attention.

Experiments in cardio-respiratory relations, renal function studies, and endocrine interrelations in normal and altered states of circulation are some of the projects under study at the present time.

The group is also conducting detailed electrolyte balance studies on cardiac patients receiving some of the new cation-exchange resins. Cratagueus Macrantha, an old drug long-used in European and American medicine, has been studied for its effects on hypertension. Interestingly enough, no favorable effects on hypertension have been demonstrated, but there is a suggestion that the drug may have some usefulness in the treatment of cardiac arrhythmias. This point is being pursued in clinical experiments at this time.

The Clinic has well-equipped laboratories for the study of related cardiovascular problems in lower animals. Cross-circulation experiments and work with an artificial heart-pump are being performed with a view to attaining a method of shunting the blood around all or a part of the heart while operative procedures are performed within the heart. Animal experiments are also being performed testing various methods of blood vessel graft preservation.

**Honors**

Dr. Paul A. Neal, Chief of the Laboratory of Physical Biology, NIAMD, has been named a member of the Joint Subcommittee on Toxicity Screening Methods of the National Research Council Food Protection Committee, Subcommittee on Toxicology, and the Manufacturing Chemists’ Association Committee on Chemicals in Foods.

Dr. R. W. G. Wyckoff, Chief of the Section on Molecular Biophysics, NIAMD, has been appointed to the Joint Commission on Electron Microscopy recently created by the International Council of Scientific Unions. Dr. Wyckoff will represent the Union of Crystallography.

**Income Tax Forms**

Tax return forms are now available in the Personnel office, Room 21, Building 1.

**Statistical Meeting**

Mr. Jerome Cornfield of NCI’s Biometrics Section was elected a Fellow of the American Statistical Association at its annual meeting in Boston recently. He was also elected Southeastern Representative in the Association’s Governing Council.

Dr. Harold F. Dorn, Samuel W. Greenhouse, and Cornfield were elected to the Governing Council of the Biometrics Section of ASA.

**A Gentle Reminder**

Two regular pay days coming up shortly are also bank holidays in Maryland. They are Lincoln’s birthday, February 12, and Maryland Day, March 25.

**Scientific Sessions**

Dr. Robert J. Huebner, Chief of NMI’s Section on Virus and Rickettsial Diseases, led the discussion on the papers on Coxsackie viruses presented at the January 11-13 meeting of the New York Academy of Sciences.

**Join the March of Dimes**

Fifty canisters have been distributed throughout NIH for your contributions to the annual polio fund drive. When you pass the miniature iron lung, drop in a dime and help save a life.
CREDIT UNION VOTES 4 PERCENT DIVIDEND

Members of the NIH Credit Union voted a four percent dividend on 1951 savings, at their 11th annual meeting on January 8.

Captain Laurence Johnson, Treasurer, announced that assets of the Credit Union now amount to over a quarter of a million dollars and that 60 percent of NIH employees are members. He urged, however, that more employees join the Credit Union. Interest rates on loans are low, and dividends on savings are high.

At the meeting, members were elected to the three committees that guide the Credit Union. Elected to the Board of Directors were Captain Johnson; Amy Nifong, OD; John Reed, NCI; Frances Shelley, HU; and Neil Wood, OD. New members of the Credit Committee are Dorothy Amos, OD; Lloyd Bankard, OD; Kenneth Painter, NMI; and Francis Taylor, OD. Charles Barley, DRG, Gilbert Frey, DRG, and Mary Lou York, NMI, were chosen for the Supervisory Committee.

A $25 war bond was given as a door prize at the meeting. Lucky winner was Mrs. Ruby Peters, OD.

BRITISH VIRUS EXPERT VISITS NIH

Dr. C. H. Andrews of the National Institute for Medical Research, London, and Director of WHO Influenza Center, spoke at NIH on January 9. His subject was tumor viruses and their relation to cancer. Dr. Andrews is internationally known for his accomplishments in the virus field. Shown with Dr. Andrews (center) are Dr. L. A. Scheele, Surgeon General (left), and Dr. W. H. Sebrell, Jr., NIH Director.

HAMSTERS STIR--AND THE PLOT THICKENS

On January 16 the Hamsters held tryouts for their 1952 production. From Wilson Hall came strange guttural sounds as if the budding thespians were rehearsing in an ancient tongue.

To add to the mystery, Jack Beecher, Hamster Director, asked to borrow some unusual props. Among them were one-half dozen dinosaurs, assorted; 3 caves, medium, limestone; 1 kit, demolition, Clinical Center; assorted skins, tiger, bear, lion; and 4 robes and mortar boards, academic.

The annual December play of the Hamsters, scheduled for February, will be presented in March.

PHOTOSYNTHESIS TO BE SHOWN ON TELEVISION

The work of Dr. Dean Burk on photosynthesis will be featured on the Johns Hopkins Science Review program over the Dumont television network, Monday, February 11, at 8:30 p.m.

Want To Show A Movie?

Mr. May Tells the Way

Since many of the meetings held at NIH require the use of illustrative slides or films, Mr. C. W. May, Buildings Management Branch, has outlined the correct procedure for obtaining movie and slide projectors.

All requests for the showing of films and slides should be submitted to the Buildings Management Branch (Ext. 422) 24 hours in advance of the showing.

With its present workload, the Branch can only provide projectionists for motion pictures. Slide projectors and screens will be transported to the desired location, Mr. May says, but the requesting office should have someone available to operate the equipment.

To facilitate movie showings, all film should be turned over to the operator four hours before its scheduled use, so that it may be checked for flaws.

Maryland’s State Controller Millard J. Tawes advises taxpayers to delay filing their Maryland returns until the legislature has acted on a bill to reduce taxes on 1951 income by 15 percent. Deadline for filing 1951 Maryland income tax returns is April 15.

TAX REMINDER

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Dr. Burcl will appear on the program with Mr. Vernon Riley, also of NCI’s Laboratory of Biochemistry, and Dr. Victor Shocken, of George Washington University Medical School.

(Cont’d from page 1)

the University of Richmond conferred upon him the degree of Doctor of Science. Dr. Spencer is married and has two children and four grandchildren.

Dr. W. H. Sebrell, NIH Director, summed up the feelings of NIH when he said, "Dr. Spencer’s open-minded attitude on scientific problems, his wide range of knowledge, his willingness to share this knowledge with others and to lend a helping hand wherever and whenever he could, will long be remembered by all those who have had the privilege of being associated with him at the National Institutes of Health."

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ARTISTS HELP INTERPRET
SCIENTIFIC WORK AT NIH

One of the most exacting jobs at NIH belongs to the Medical Arts Section of the Scientific Reports Branch.

Inez Demonet and a staff of eight are responsible for nearly all artistic endeavors at NIH. This includes illustrating pathological specimens and microscopic material for medical publications, making technical and mechanical drawings of scientific apparatus, designing and making exhibits, and drawing thousands of statistical graphs, charts, and maps for papers published by NIH scientists. Preparing graphic illustrations for papers by NIH scientists. Preparing graphic illustrations for papers published by NIH scientists. Preparing graphic illustrations for papers published by NIH scientists. Preparing graphic illustrations for papers published by NIH scientists.

Walt Disney has nothing on Medical Arts. "B.W.," a cartoon character representing biological warfare, was recently created for a slide series to be used in civil defense lectures.

Several years ago a plastics unit was set up in the Section. Here, pathological and entomological specimens are embedded in clear plastic. These specimens are used in exhibits and demonstrations. In fact, a series of plastic-embedded specimens was sent to Liberia and South America to illustrate to natives the life cycles of various insects which transmit diseases in their regions.

Inez Demonet, head of the shop, has been with Medical Arts since 1926. She recalls working on the exhibit, Rocky Mountain spotted fever, with which Dr. R. R. Spencer of NIAID's Laboratory of Physical Biology discovered in 1933, when, like many another man in those difficult days, he found himself laid off for eight months from his job with the Bureau of Mines.

Born in Pittsburgh and graduated from Westinghouse High School in 1924, Mr. Brubach went to work for the Bureau of Mines. Evening and weekend engagements playing banjo in a band from 1925 until 1931 brought in more folding money than his daytime job. But a full-time stint in 1933 with a traveling band and his subsequent move to Washington to a job in PHS's Industrial Hygiene Division marked the end of his musical career.

Beginning as a worker in the pathology laboratory, Mr. Brubach soon went out on field surveys for the Division. One of the early ones was a survey of the effects of pressure on divers during construction of the Queens mid-town tunnel in New York City. Later, he went to Utah to study lung diseases incurred by coal and silver miners.

After 1940 Mr. Brubach was assigned to the laboratory here at NIH, where he did some high-altitude research in the pressure chamber during World War II.

Currently, he is working as research technician in Dr. Heinz Specht's Section on Physiological Physics, where they have been experimenting with human respiration and the measurement of respiratory flow patterns under varying gas densities. They have also done some comparative research on new vs. old methods of artificial respiration.

Mr. and Mrs. Brubach make their home in Wood Acres, Md., and have three lively youngsters--a daughter, 11, and two sons, 8 and 4. His wife has more cause than most women for complaining that her husband has much too little time to spend at home, for Mr. Brubach has been a captain in the Glen Echo Fire Department for the last 10 years, and even he admits, a bit ruefully, that it keeps him on the go.

NIH Spotlight

Howard F. Brubach

Banjo-playing is all right as a hobby and a spare-time job, but it goes sour quickly when you depend on it for your bread and butter. That's what Howard F. Brubach of NIAID's Laboratory of Physical Biology discovered in 1933, when, like many another man in those difficult days, he found himself laid off for eight months from his job with the Bureau of Mines.

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