PLANS APPROVED FOR SURVEY AT NIH

The Survey Research Center of the University of Michigan is going to help NIH look at itself as an operating research organization, considering not only laboratory research but also the grant program and all supporting and administrative services.

The central reason for undertaking the study is to see how all the functions performed by NIH can be carried out most productively and efficiently during a period of growth and change. The decision to proceed with the study was reached after the staff of the Survey Research Center interviewed about 150 people at NIH, and after extensive discussions with laboratory chiefs, Institute directors, a Steering Committee, and other special advisory groups of employees who recommended that it be undertaken.

Questionnaires will be distributed to all employees in September and from 75 to 100 people will be interviewed. The questions to be asked will be based on a thorough preliminary study of the things that people at NIH have said are important to them, but everyone will be free to express opinions on anything--favorable or unfavorable--that seems significant.

The questions will cover a wide range of topics, including such things as satisfaction with services, promotion, salary, leave, travel, and working hours policies, satisfaction with supervision and adequacy of contact with other persons and groups.

Findings will be made available to NIH in the spring of 1953 for carefully planned consideration by the Institutes, laboratories, and the Office of the Director. The preliminary analyses may be followed

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CONSTRUCTION PROGRESSES ON BLDG. 22

The new building now under construction between the Stone House and Building 12 is the Grounds Maintenance Building.

It is a single-story structure approximately 300 feet long and 50 feet wide. Built of cinder block, it will be faced with brick to harmonize with the Clinical Center.

More than half of its total area will be used for storing grass-cutters, tractors, power sprayers and other large garden equipment. Another section is reserved for storage of small hand tools, seeds, and spray materials. The rest of the building has space for an office and locker and shower facilities.

The building will serve as headquarters for H. J. McGahren, Head of the Landscape Section, and his crew. NIH has purchased in recent months some of the most modern equipment for landscaping the reservation, including a bulldozer, all-purpose cultivator, hydraulic grader blades, power roller and compressor.

PRIZE TO BE AWARDED FOR BEST NIH GARDEN

Each summer a number of NIH employees cultivate gardens on a few acres of land near T-6. This year 107 gardens are in full bloom. On July 12 the NIH Garden Committee will inspect the area and select the best and second best gardens.

To the owners of these gardens will go prizes of $10 and $5. The prize money will be obtained from a balance left last year in the Garden Committee account.

Factors which the Committee will consider in awarding the prizes will be: (1) cleanliness of the garden, (2) condition of pathways bordering individual lots; (3) general thriftiness of the garden crops; and (4) arrangement, spacing, and layout.

Members of the Garden Committee include Dr. W. T. Thorp, Dr. George A. Hottle, and Mr. Ken Brown.
The function of the Technical Development Section, NHI, is the study and development of instruments for use in cardiovascular research. Headed by Dr. Bert R. Boone, the section includes Dr. Robert L. Bowman, Frank Noble, Robert Gorman, and Hillary Trantham.

One instrument now being developed by the section is a Fourier Analyzer. The purpose of this instrument is to determine the component frequencies contained in any waveform such as an electrokymogram, electrocardiogram, ballistocardiogram, and blood pressure tracing. This analysis is necessary to determine the design requirements for each of the instruments used to record cardiovascular phenomena.

In the interests of high stability, favorable signal-to-noise ratio, ease of operation, and low cost, it is desirable to limit the uniform frequency response of a recording instrument to as narrow a band as possible, consistent with fidelity of reproduction.

The Fourier analysis of the waveform defines this minimum band width. The Fourier Analyzer consists of two units—a function generator and a panoramic wave analyzer. The waveform to be analyzed is presented to the function generator in the form of a shadow graph. The function generator produces a voltage wave which is a replica of the shadow graph waveform, but which recurs at a frequency approximately 200 times as fast as the normal heart rate.

This voltage wave is presented to the panoramic wave analyzer. Once each second, this instrument tunes through the frequency spectrum from 40 to 20,000 cycles per second. The Fourier analysis of the waveform appears on the face of a cathode ray oscillograph in the form of a plot of amplitude versus log frequency. The face of the cathode ray tube is photographed to provide a permanent record of the Fourier analysis.

The use of such laboratory instruments in clinical investigation is not practical at this time. However, clinical instruments may be designed in the light of information obtained by the research laboratory from the analyses of very accurate waveforms.

Here and There

TV Interview

Dr. John M. Lynch of the Employee Health Service was a recent guest on "Today," Dave Garroway's NBC morning television show. Dr. Lynch was interviewed by a local announcer on how to keep cool in the summer. His helpful suggestions included drinking plenty of water, loose-fitting porous clothing, light nourishing meals, and plenty of rest. Dr. Lynch advocates the use of salt tablets only by those employees whose work is strenuous. Other workers can adequately supplement their salt intake at mealtime.

Hot Weather Policy

The current policy on dismissing employees in hot weather is the same as that of last year. Employees who suffer from the heat may be granted sick leave when recommended by the Employee Health Service. Other employees will be permitted to use their annual leave if they can be spared.

Except for extreme emergency conditions, however, group dismissals will be made only from unusually hot work areas when a temperature of 95 degrees and 55 percent humidity or higher prevails.

Space Converted

Furniture has been removed from Conference Room 101 in Building 1 to provide additional office space. The room, adjoining the Clinical Center executive offices, will accommodate several new employees.

All standing reservations for this conference room are being assigned to other meeting facilities by the Buildings Management Branch.

Exhibit

The Purchase and Supply Branch has arranged for a demonstration of a new microscope lamp in Wilson Hall on Wednesday, July 9, from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m.

This demonstration by Scopicon, Inc., of New York City, manufacturers of the lamp, was arranged at the request of several NIH scientists.
REPORT PUBLISHED ON TOXOPLASMOSIS

"Toxoplasmosis," a report published recently by PHS, is the work of Dr. Jacob Karl Frenkel, formerly on the staff of NMI, and Dr. Saul Friedlander, of Mercy Hospital, Sacramento, Calif.

Toxoplasmosis has been recognized in the last 15 years as the cause of an acute, generally fatal infection in the newborn. The causative agent is commonly regarded to be a protozoal organism. Although the exact mode of transmission of the disease in nature is unknown, arthropod transmission has been suspected.

This report presents clinical histories of five fatal and two surviving cases of toxoplasmosis in infants, along with autopsy findings of four of the fatal cases.

Much of the technical part of the report concerns evidence to support a new concept concerning the pathogenesis of the central nervous system lesion in infants. These lesions are thought to result from an antigen-antibody reaction in the brain.

SURVEY Cont'd

by more detailed consultation with laboratory and section personnel if this seems desirable.

After a meeting with the Institute directors devoted to discussion of the study, Dr. Sebrell said, "I want to emphasize three things about this study. First, we are confident that it will help everyone at NIH--including scientists, administrative people, maintenance and shop employees--to do a better job and to take personal pride and satisfaction in his work here. The study has the full support of all the Institute directors and their staffs.

"Second, participation in the study, through filling out a questionnaire or being interviewed, will be voluntary.

"Third, only the Survey Research Center will know what individuals say. Our interest is in the strength and prevalence of opinions and attitudes. We at NIH don't need to know, don't want to know and will not know the opinions of specific individuals."

Very few people can perform a hypophysectomy, or surgical removal of the pituitary gland, unassisted. Britton H. Smith, in NCI's Endocrinology Branch, frequently does it on rats. Although humans would die if the pituitary was removed, rats can survive for approximately six months after the operation.

Britton Smith, who has been with Dr. Roy Hertz for more than four years, performs many other operations on small animals, such as malignant tumor transplants, splenectomy, and adenectomy. He also does chemical hormone assay of gonadotropin.

Mr. Smith first came to NIH in 1940, where he worked with Dr. Harris Isbell. He also assisted Dr. Sebrell and Dr. Daft before joining Dr. Hertz's staff. In Dr. Daft's laboratory he produced artificial anemia in rats, putting them on special diets and observing the effects of amino acids on blood regeneration.

Britt had a well-traveled life before he settled down at NIH. He was born in South Pottstown, Pa., but he didn't stay there long. His father was an Army first sergeant, and took his family along on all his assignments from Camp Meade, Md., to Hawaii.

Britt paused briefly to attend George Washington University, and then went into the Air Force for a four-year stint. He was a flight surgeon's assistant with the 33d Fighter Group, and participated in three landings, at Morocco, Sicily, and Italy. In September 1943, Britt was decorated with the Soldier's Medal at Salerno for saving the life of a Spitfire pilot whose plane had crashed. Britt pulled him from the wreckage shortly before the plane exploded.

Wanderlust not to be denied, Britt took in all the sights from Mt. Etna to Stromboli during his year and a half in Europe. He even acquired a nickname while in the service -- "Beachhead," from his initials B. H.

Married in 1941, the Smiths have two children, a daughter 6, and a son 2. Britt began building a home on Lone Oak Drive in Bethesda in 1946. Two years later he moved in and has spent many hours in his garden. Iris and roses are his specialty.
NIH CAFETERIA SERVES 700 EMPLOYEES DAILY

The average housewife, if faced with hundreds of dinner guests, would probably be reduced to a state of near collapse. But Mrs. Blanche Featherstonehaugh, manage of the NIH cafeteria, takes it all in stride. For 14 years she has been responsible for the preparation and serving of all food at NIH.

Her day starts at 6:00 a.m., when most of us are still blissfully asleep. By 7:30, the cafeteria is ready to serve breakfast to NIH early risers.

Lunch time is the busiest. A central office of G.S.I sends out standard menus and recipes each week, so the same dishes are served on the same days in all its cafeterias. It is up to the individual cafeteria, however, to determine the amount of food it needs and to order accordingly. This isn't always easy, especially at NIH, where a good many visitors show up unexpectedly.

Our cafeteria prepares all the food it serves except pies and cakes. Incidentally, you can buy whole pies and cakes to take home, if you give your order to Mrs. Feathers one day in advance.

All vegetables prepared by the cafeteria are either fresh or frozen. Tomatoes are the only canned vegetable used. Strangely enough, the favorite vegetable of NIH people seems to be carrots. Milk is also a big favorite. Mrs. Feathers attributes this to the fact that NIH people are extremely health-conscious. "Very few people select meals that could be called unbalanced," she says.

The cafeteria is equipped with an automatic dishwasher, beater, and deep fat fryer to simplify the job. Vegetables, however, are pared by hand, including about 30 lbs. of potatoes each day.

The size of each serving of food is determined by weight. Meat is weighed by individual portions so each serving is exactly the same. Sample portions of bulk vegetables are weighed before each meal, so the counter girl can approximate the proper amount.

"Perhaps the most difficult part of running a cafeteria is trying to please everybody," says Mrs. Feathers. "We do the best we can, and we greatly appreciate the cooperation shown by NIH people."

MARY CHISHOLM RETIRES FROM NIH ON JUNE 30

Miss Mary E. Chisholm, Placement Officer of the Personnel Branch, has retired after 33 years of Federal Service.

On June 27, a large number of her friends gathered in Wilson Hall for a party in her honor. Dr. Byron Olson, on behalf of the group, presented her with a wrist watch on which was inscribed "M.E.C. from the National Institutes of Health." Dr. Sebrell also presented her with a scroll signed by her many friends.

Miss Chisholm will be sorely missed by NIH. She has been with NIH people are extremely health-conscious. "Very few people select meals that could be called unbalanced," she says.

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HOW DOES YOUR GARDEN GROW?

Five days left before the prize gardens are selected.

BUNIM TO HEAD CLINICAL RESEARCH ON ARTHRITIS

Dr. Joseph J. Bunim, leading authority on rheumatic disease, has been appointed director of clinical studies on rheumatic diseases at the National Institute of Arthritis and Metabolic Diseases, effective July 1.

Dr. Bunim will conduct investigations on arthritis and rheumatism at the Clinical Center. Seventy-five beds in the new research hospital have been allocated to NIAMD, and approximately 25 of those will be devoted to rheumatic disease patients under Dr. Bunim's care.

Pending transfer to Bethesda, Dr. Bunim will be assigned to continue his arthritis research at Bellevue Medical Center, New York City.

Prior to his appointment, Dr. Bunim was Associate Professor of Medicine at New York University College of Medicine. He has been chief of the arthritis clinic at Bellevue Hospital, New York; chief of clinical research on rheumatic diseases, Bellevue Medical Center; consultant to the Surgeon General of the Army and to the Veterans Administration; and the founder and editor of the "Bulletin on Rheumatic Diseases."

Dr. Bunim received his B.S. degree from the College of the City of New York in 1926, and his M.D. and Sc.D. from the New York University College of Medicine in 1930 and 1938.