DR. PRICE NAMED TO NEW PHS POST

Dr. David E. Price has been appointed to the newly created post of Assistant Surgeon General of the Public Health Service. He has been an Associate Director of NIH for the past two years. In his new assignment, Dr. Price will aid the Surgeon General and the Deputy Surgeon General in the administration of PHS.

Commissioned in 1941, Dr. Price came to NIH in 1946 to the newly established Research Grants Division. The following year he was appointed Chief of the Research Grants Branch of NCI and served in this position until August 1, 1948, when he was appointed Chief of the Division of Research Grants and Fellowships. Dr. Price was made Associate Director of NIH on December 1, 1950.

In commenting on Dr. Price's appointment, Dr. W. H. Sebrell, Jr., said, "Dr. Price has made many important contributions to our programs, both as Chief of the Division of Research Grants and as Associate Director of NIH. NIH is sorry to have him leave, but is happy for him in his promotion."

Named to replace Dr. Price is Dr. C. J. Van Slyke, who has served as Director of the National Heart Institute since its establishment by Congress in 1948. In his new position, Dr. Van Slyke will assist Dr. Sebrell in coordination of the Institutes' programs of research and training grants, disease control and community services, professional training, and relationships with national foundations, health and welfare organizations.

Dr. Van Slyke was the first Chief of the Division of Research Grants and Fellowships when it was established in January 1946. He became Director of NIH in August 1948.

NCI ESTABLISHES NEW BRANCHES

Dr. J. R. Heller, NCI Director, announced the establishment of two new branches in the National Cancer Institute for orientation of its work to new research programs in the Clinical Center.

Dr. Roy Hertz, who headed the former Endocrinology Branch, was named chief of the new Research Medicine Branch. Dr. Robert R. Smith, recently appointed chief surgeon of NCI, will serve as acting chief of the new Clinical Medicine and Surgery Branch.

Dr. Hertz, with NIH since 1941, has been engaged in clinical and laboratory research concerned with the endocrine aspects of cancer. Dr. Smith has been with NCI at the Warwick Clinic since 1951.

PHS STEPS OUT OF VACCINE PRODUCTION

Yellow fever vaccine, heretofore produced exclusively by the Public Health Service, will be manufactured in the future by the National Drug Company of Philadelphia. This step was taken following several conferences with many of the major pharmaceutical houses in the United States.

Manufacture of the vaccine by the National Drug Company does not alter the regulations governing distribution. In conformance with the Biologies Control Law, the National Drug Company must obtain a license from PHS before it can distribute yellow fever vaccine.
Studies of Toxoplasmosis

No. 82 in a Series

Although toxoplasma has been known as a parasite of animals since 1908, extensive studies have revealed little about the disease which it causes. The bulk of the clinical information on toxoplasmosis has resulted from investigation of neonatal cases. The main practical benefit that research on toxoplasmosis has thus far produced is the serological testing of suspected cases of the disease.

In the Laboratory of Tropical Diseases, Dr. Leon Jacobs and his NMM co-workers are engaged in a wide variety of studies on toxoplasmosis. Since the disease causes much permanent damage in infants before it can be diagnosed, and since no specific treatment could be expected to remove such damage, it is of primary importance to find out the method of transmission of the parasite. This involves investigations of the various natural carriers of the parasite, such as dogs, cats, rabbits, rats, mice, and pigeons, to see under what circumstances the toxoplasmas they harbor may be acquired by humans. It is known that the toxoplasmas can be found in the blood soon after experimental infection of these animals. Transmission of the infection has been tried by means of blood-sucking arthropods such as lice, fleas, and ticks, with little success. Other stages of the disease are sought in the feces, urine, and even the saliva of animals, and of insects that might come into contact with the feces. This search will continue, following various clues, until the method of spread is found.

Work designed to establish or deny the relation of toxoplasmosis to various disease conditions is progressing. One of the most important aspects of this work is the serological study of cases of an eye disease, chorioretinitis, in adults. It is known that infants with congenital toxoplasmosis generally show this symptom. Also, parasites resembling toxoplasmas in form and staining reactions have been found in pathological examination of the eyes of adults. Serological tests on people with such eye disease have been performed in cooperation with ophthalmologists at Walter Reed and Johns Hopkins. These, and skin tests using antigens, may reveal the presence of anti-toxoplasma antibodies. This is done in cooperation with NNDB.

Studies have also been undertaken on the incidence of toxoplasma in various animals in nature, what factors make one strain more virulent than another, in what sites the parasites localize in the body, and under what circumstances the resistance of a host is increased or decreased.

Here and There

Election Day

"Insofar as may be practicable without interfering seriously with production, employees who desire to vote at communities where they maintain voting residence, except where voting by absentee ballot is permitted, will be excused for that purpose without charge to leave for a reasonable time on all election days. Further, employees who will be voting in jurisdictions which require registration in person will be excused for that purpose without charge to leave for a reasonable time during the registration periods specified by the jurisdiction in which they will vote. Such authorized absence should not exceed the time actually required to vote or register, as the case may be, and in no event should it exceed one working day for each election or registration period." --Federal Personnel Manual, Chapter LI, pp. 1-2.

It is expected that persons voting in suburban areas will not need more than one or two hours to vote.

Bank Holiday

Tuesday, November 4, is an NIH pay day, but all banks, including the NIH branch of the Bank of Bethesda, will be closed because of Election Day.

Dyer Lecture

Nearly 600 invited guests attended the second R. E. Dyer Lecture on October 29. The title of Sir F. Macfarlane Burnet's paper, which will be published later, was "The Virus and the Cell."

Dr. Topping Feted

Friends and colleagues entertained Dr. and Mrs. Norman Topping at a farewell cocktail party October 30 at the Commissioned Officer's Club of the National Naval Medical Center.
PROGRESS REPORTED IN COMMUNITY CHEST DRIVE

As this issue of the RECORD goes to press, three reporting units of NIH have reached or surpassed their campaign goals in the Red Feather Drive. NIDR, under the chairmanship of Mr. Mort Cox, was first to reach the goal. The Clinical Center drive, led by Mr. Milton Skolaut, surpassed its goal by some 15%. NIAMD, led by Dr. Nelson Richtmyer, was the first of the larger Institutes to go "over the top."

Gil Baylis, NIH Chairman, announced that the other Institutes and Central Services are making excellent progress toward their goals. The Community Chest campaign will extend through several more pay days and all employees will have an opportunity to participate.

Appointments, Cont'd.

Dr. Van Slyke will be succeeded by Dr. James Watt as Director of the National Heart Institute. Prior to his appointment, Dr. Watt was in charge of dysentery control studies conducted by NMI at Louisiana State University Medical School. He is widely recognized for his research on diarrheal diseases, particularly shigellosis and salmonellosis. He brings to his new position a combination of administrative and research experience, including knowledge of field work and the development of cooperative programs with community, State, and National organizations, which qualify him uniquely to head the broad research program of the Heart Institute and assure that its work and its findings are integrated with those of other professional groups.

Vaccine, Cont'd.

of its own manufacture. The company is now constructing special plant facilities at Swiftwater, Pennsylvania, to produce yellow fever vaccine.

The Public Health Service has been the Nation's sole producer of yellow fever vaccine since 1942, when emergency wartime needs made it necessary that the Government assume production. The vaccine, used primarily by the armed services, has been manufactured at NMI's Rocky Mountain Laboratory in Hamilton, Montana. Production was terminated in September.

NIH Spotlight

One of the first four employees of the Division of Research Grants, Mrs. Lillian M. Rankin is an important cog in the Division's administrative wheel. As Head of the Administrative Services Section, Mrs. Rankin oversees the operations of the Personnel, Typing, Property, Mail and File, Project Control, and Duplicating Units.

The Duplicating Unit is the largest of these and serves not only the Division, but all of NIH. The Project Control Unit is the place where grant applications are given their first administrative review prior to being sent to the Project Review Officer.

Born in Brooklyn, New York, Mrs. Rankin moved with her parents to Washington in 1918, when her father's business brought him there. She entered the 6th grade of the Weightman School and was graduated from Business High School.

In 1927 she was married to George M. Rankin and she continued working for the Division until her son, George M., Jr., was born in 1929.

Mrs. Rankin went back to work in March 1936 and entered the Public Health Service as a stenographer. This was in the Office of Public Health Education, of which Dr. R. R. Spencer was the chief. He conducted a series of orientation classes for newly commissioned officers. Here Mrs. Rankin had her first experience with pay-roll and travel records for the officers attending the course. She also gained some knowledge of duplicating methods when she assisted in the publication of The Health Officer, a monthly magazine for laymen.

In July 1938, she transferred to the Venereal Disease Division and was put in charge of the stenographic pool. Some time later, she became secretary to the division chief, Dr. R. A. Vonderlehr, and subsequently, Dr. J. R. Heller.

Mrs. Rankin began to do some personnel work for the Division, and in 1944, when Bureaus were organized within PHS, she was made Chief of the Personnel Unit in the Bureau of Management Services. Here she met Ernest M. Allen, present Chief of the Division of Research Grants. Mr. Allen asked her to transfer to NIH when the Division was formed in January 1946. Mrs. Rankin's friendly smile is known to everyone in DRG. She has lent a sympathetic ear to their problems and has solved many of them with her cheerful efficiency.

The Rankins moved to a home on Rosedale Avenue in Bethesda in 1942, when PHS headquarters came to T-6, at which time Mr. Rankin was assigned to T-6 as Senior Guard by Public Buildings Administration. Here she has indulged in her hobby of gardening to the fullest extent. She and her husband acquired the vacant lot next to their home and planted an extensive "Victory" garden there for many years. It was quite common for her to can 300-400 jars of garden produce every year. Since her son, Morgan, enlisted in the Navy and earned his commission and pilot's wings at Pensacola, Fla., and Corpus Christi, Tex., the parents found the care of the lawn and garden quite time-consuming when they are now in the process of landscaping the adjoining lot. Morgan, incidentally, was married last December to his high school sweetheart and a former NIAMD secretary, Barbara Ann Zeigler, and is now stationed at Weeksville, N. C.

Mrs. Rankin apparently does not believe in idle hands, as she does quite a bit of sewing and crocheting, and is very active in the Businesswomen's Circle of the Bethesda Presbyterian Church.

In the formative days of the NIH Recreation and Welfare Association, she served as chairman of the constitution and by-laws committee and as a member of the organization committee. During 1950-51, Mrs. Rankin served on the board of the NIH Credit Union, and was its vice president during 1951.
NIH ELECTRICAL SYSTEMS
REQUIRE CONSTANT CARE

It takes 16 electricians and an electrical engineer to keep the complicated electrical systems at NIH in operation. Mr. William Courson, head of the Electrical Engineering Section, Mr. Wilbur Marlow, head of the Electrical Shop, and his assistant are responsible for the maintenance and repair of all lighting, power, buzzer, and fire alarm systems, IBM clocks, and sprinkler systems in all the buildings. In addition, Building 1 has a 2-way radio transmitting and receiving station and mobile units in 5 automobiles which require a good deal of attention.

When you go to a movie, lecture, or play at NIH, someone from the Electrical Engineering Section operates the projection machines, public address systems, or special lighting. At the recent Community Chest rally, the outdoor public address facilities were provided by NIH electricians.

The Electrical Engineering Section is also responsible for repairing and installing complicated laboratory equipment such as ozone converters and voltage stabilizers. Incidentally, the shop has a stock of electrical replacement parts for laboratory equipment.

In addition to maintenance and repair of electrical systems and equipment, the Section prepares electrical specifications for new buildings, wiring diagrams, cost estimates, and often solves electrical design problems.

The electricians are sometimes called upon to design and install special lighting effects for exhibits. The heart exhibit, shown recently in Wilson Hall, required complicated electrical hookup or relays, switches and special lighting.

Men from the Electrical Engineering Section are on call 24 hours a day. In case of power shutdowns, there are available 5 complete emergency power plants.

When the Clinical Center is in operation, electricians will be working on 24-hour shifts, and the staff will be increased to 48 men to insure that the complex electrical facilities are kept in constant operation.

Right now the Section confines its work in the Clinical Center to inspection--no small task when you consider the miles of wiring and equipment that must be checked.

FALL DRIVING HAZARDS

Now that school has started, you are probably encountering many more children on the streets while driving to and from work. It's a good idea to drive extra carefully because children frequently dart across a street or forget to cross at a crossing. Remember, too, to follow the signals and directions of the school-boys patrol.

Incidentally, according to Maryland driving regulations, you should bring your car to a full stop at least 10 feet from the front or rear of a school bus when it is unloading or loading children. Do not start until the bus has closed its door and continued on its way. This law does not apply, however, if you approach the school bus from the front on a dual highway.

VISITING SCIENTIST
PROGRAM EXPANDED

A modified Visiting Scientist Program has been established at NIH. Under this program, research workers with demonstrated ability and specialized training are invited to conduct their investigations at NIH laboratories for periods of time ranging from a few weeks to two years.

This is an extension of the NIH policy which has in the past brought to NIH such renowned guests as the Nobel Prize winners Albert Szent-Gyorgyi, Bernardo A. Houssay, and Otto H. Warburg.

Two categories of visiting investigators are established in the new program: Visiting Scientist and Research Associate. Requirements for the first category are a doctor's degree or its equivalent in training and experience, at least six years of post-doctorate research, and demonstrated ability in a specific research problem. Research Associates must have the same training and experience, but not necessarily the same degree of identification with a specialized field.

The first Visiting Scientist to be appointed under the new program is Dr. Horace A. Barker of the University of California, outstanding investigator in the field of metabolism. Dr. Barker, on sabbatical leave from the University of California, will work at NIAMD with Dr. Arthur Kornberg, concentrating upon the isolation of enzymes.