DR. SEBRELL WINS NUTRITION AWARD

On December 5, Dr. W. H. Sebrell, Jr., NIH Director, received the third Joseph Goldberger Award in Clinical Nutrition.

The award is presented annually by the American Medical Association through its Council on Foods and Nutrition. Dr. Sebrell was honored for outstanding clinical nutrition research, and, particularly, for his discovery of the cause, symptomatology, and treatment of ariboflavinosis, a vitamin deficiency disease.

Dr. Joseph Goldberger, also of the Public Health Service, in whose name the annual award is made, discovered the dietary cause and treatment of pellagra during almost two decades of research. Dr. Sebrell worked closely with Dr. Goldberger in some of his later studies.

In his acceptance address, Dr. Sebrell discussed trends and needs in clinical nutrition. He pointed out that improved nutrition in the United States has greatly reduced the diseases caused by vitamin deficiencies. Deaths from pellagra, for example, declined from approximately 7,000 in 1928 to only 260 in 1950. This progress he attributed primarily to the results of research as applied through medical and public health practice, nutritional improvement of foods, improved economic and agricultural conditions, and a wider public awareness of the relation of good nutrition to good health.

Today America faces new and equally serious nutritional problems which require clinical study and research, Dr. Sebrell continued. As major objectives he listed (1) control of obesity, (2) explanation of the role of nutrition in

PHS TO RECEIVE AWARD FOR HEALTH SERVICES

The American Pharmaceutical Manufacturers Association will present its 1952 scientific award to the Public Health Service on December 9. The presentation will be made to Dr. Leonard A. Scheele, Surgeon General, at a ceremony in the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel in New York City.

The Association is honoring the Public Health Service "in recognition of numerous basic laboratory and clinical research contributions and for American and world-wide health services, all of which have so greatly improved human health and well-being."

The Public Health Service is preparing a Scientific Session for

NUTRITION INSTITUTE MEETINGS START TODAY

Meetings of a National Food and Nutrition Institute are scheduled to begin today at the Jefferson Auditorium of the U. S. Department of Agriculture. Joint sponsors of the conference are the Public Health Service, Department of Agriculture, and Interagency Committee on Nutrition and School Lunch.

The three-day sessions are expected to spotlight today's major problems in food and nutrition and to provide up-to-date guidance for educators and other leaders in nutrition work.

Approximately 400 representatives of Government and non-Government agencies that have responsibility for current food and nutri-
Although studies of the effects of high-energy radiation upon the animal body date back to the late 19th century and the basic discoveries of Roentgen, recent events have greatly stimulated interest and concern in this problem.

A new lead was provided by Dr. Leon Jacobson of the University of Chicago, who discovered that shielding the spleens of mice before X-irradiation protected them from normally fatal doses. This protective action of the spleen was subsequently found to be operative when either whole spleens or homogenates were introduced into the peritoneal cavity of previously irradiated mice. It is still an open question whether this protective action of the spleen can be ascribed to a "hormonal" function or to a "seeding" of the blood-forming organs of the recipient mouse by certain cells of the donor spleen.

In order to understand the role of the spleen in the radiation syndrome, Dr. Gilbert Ashwell of the Division of Nuclear Radiation Biology, NIAID, has undertaken a study of the basic biochemical and metabolic properties of this organ—a task which had been largely neglected due to the fact that the spleen is unessential to life, since it can be removed without apparent harm.

One of the first facts to be uncovered about the irradiated splenic metabolism was that the enzymatic breakdown of certain energy-rich, phosphorus-containing compounds (adenosine triphosphate and adenosine diphosphate) was greatly increased, while the normal capacity of the spleen to burn various substrates and to utilize atmospheric oxygen through the cytochrome oxidase system remained unaffected.

From these observations, it was then interesting to determine whether the energy which is normally trapped by the oxidation of intermediates obtained from foodstuff was affected by irradiation. This was found to be the case, for studies on the aerobic phosphorylation processes in both homogenates and mitochondrial preparations evinced a sharp drop in the efficiency of energy production after irradiation. Further control experiments provided evidence that the decreased efficiency of energy formation was due to a type of "uncoupling" reaction and not a simple hydrolysis of the high-energy phosphate esters formed.

Since the metabolic energy relationships involving the phosphorylated intermediates are apparently affected by irradiation, this approach appears to be significant. Further studies are in progress concerning other examples of energy formation, i.e., phosphorylating glycolysis. It is hoped that a rational theory of spleen function in the irradiation syndrome may be evolved from these studies.
DR. WYCKOFF APPOINTED TO DIPLOMATIC POST

Dr. Ralph W. G. Wyckoff of the Laboratory of Physical Biology, NIAMD, has been appointed Medical Science Liaison Officer for the Department of State.

Dr. Wyckoff will be stationed at the British embassy in London for eighteen months, where he will facilitate the exchange of scientific information between the United States and England. In addition to his liaison activities, Dr. Wyckoff will continue his research studies with the electron microscope.

Dr. Wyckoff plans to return to NIAMD at the termination of his appointment abroad.

DR. SEBRELL, Cont'd.

the chronic diseases, (3) diagnosis and correction of borderline dietary deficiencies, and (4) additional knowledge regarding nutrition in the aged, in surgery, and in convalescence.

Dr. Sebrell concluded by discussing plans for NIH's Clinical Center, where investigators will give special attention to clinical problems in nutrition.

PHS AWARD, Cont'd.

the occasion to consist of six papers by Dr. Scheele, Dr. John W. Cronin, Dr. Alexander Langmuir, and Mr. George Perrott, all of PHS; and Dr. W. H. Sebrell, Jr. and Dr. Bernard B. Brodie, of NIH.

Dr. Sebrell, NIH Director, will give an illustrated talk on the Clinical Center. Dr. Brodie, Chief of NIH's Laboratory of Chemical Pharmacology, will speak on "Clinical Implications of Drug Metabolism."

MEETING, Cont'd.

Topics to be discussed include achievement of good nutritional status, nutrition as a factor in disease, food laws and food protection.

Several NIH representatives will speak at the conference. Dr. W. H. Sebrell, Jr., will give the opening address, "Nutrition—Past and Future"; and Dr. Russell M. Wilder will speak on the prevalence of nutritional deficiency in the general population. Dr. James M. Hundley will preside at the dinner meeting of the institute on December 8.

On December 11 and 12, representatives at the conference will have the opportunity to tour NIH.

NIH Spotlight

Thomas Probey

NIH can point with pride to a number of veteran employees who have spent their entire working lives helping to promote its research goals. One of these is NMI's Thomas Probey.

Tom joined the Public Health Service's Hygienic Laboratory after a hitch in the Army during World War I. Before his Army service, Tom spent three years at Georgetown University studying biological sciences, so a career in a laboratory was a natural choice for him.

Tom's first laboratory assignment was with the Division of Pathology and Bacteriology, fore-runner of NMI's Laboratory of Biological Control, where he is now head of the Arsenicals Control Unit. Back in those days the Hygienic Laboratory was a far cry from the NIH of today. Tom recalls that in 1919 the total personnel numbered only 160.

Tom continued his college studies after he joined the Hygienic Laboratory and graduated from George Washington University with a B.S. in 1921.

For most of his career, Tom has been concerned with testing the potency, safety, and efficacy of arslenicals used in the treatment of syphilis. He estimates that he has used 110,000 rats to test these compounds. When penicillin replaced the arslenicals as drug of choice in the treatment of syphilis, Tom's unit began testing blood and blood products for safety and purity. At present the unit is still continuing this work.

Tom is a native Washingtonian.

R & W NOTES

The NIH Recreation and Welfare Association will hold its annual meeting for election of new officers on Wednesday, December 10, at 1:00 p.m. in Wilson Hall. All R & W members are urged to attend.

New by-laws will also be presented for approval at this meeting. Copies of the revised by-laws were sent to members prior to the meeting.

The annual sale of Christmas candy will be sponsored again by the Recreation and Welfare Association. Among the items offered will be a 5 lb. box of hard candy, and assorted chocolates in 1, 2, and 2 1/2 lb. sizes. Anyone wishing to place an order may contact Charles Barley on Extension 330.

A good time was had by all at the R & W Thanksgiving Dance on November 21 in Wilson Hall. The music by a Lee Maxfield Trio was exceptionally good. Margaret Hiben of DRG, chairman of the party, arranged an entertaining program -- hula dances performed by Elizabeth Fuller, Patricia Thomas, Martha Landefeld and Margaret Hiben, with Mamie Tribble as soloist. An added attraction was the singing of DRG's Anna Marie Stiles.

Don't throw away the coupons in your cigarette packs. Send them to Mrs. Rebecca Voitk, Room 2102 in T-6, who is collecting for the Recreation and Welfare Association. The coupons are used to obtain door prizes for Association activities.

Response has been very favorable to the recent questionnaire about dance instruction at NIH. Erv Liljegren has received over one hundred favorable replies, with interest centering primarily on classes in Latin American and conventional ballroom dancing. The Recreation and Welfare Association is contemplating sponsoring dance classes at NIH by a qualified instructor.

He is married and has one daughter. On week ends and vacations, the Probey family may be found at their cottage on the Rappahannock River in Virginia. Tom's hobbies are fishing and hunting--and the Rappahannock River area provides excellent opportunities for both.

Tom is a native Washlngtonian.
QUALITY IS THE MARK OF INSTRUMENT SECTION

When you read an advertisement for a custom-built automobile, your mind evokes a picture of quality, unusual or specialized design, and accuracy of detail. These same attributes are representative of the work turned out by the Instrument Section of NIH's Laboratory Aids Branch.

This Section, headed by Laurence R. Crisp, deals primarily with the development, design, and fabrication of precision scientific instruments and laboratory equipment. The 23 members of the Section build things which are not available on the commercial market.

Their's is an engineering service available to an NIH scientist who has a technical problem in his research project. If he needs a specialized piece of apparatus, a scientist sends in a request to the Instrument Section. Mr. Crisp arranges a conference with the scientist to discuss the purpose and function of the instrument. After the conference, an engineer prepares preliminary sketches of the proposed instrument. These sketches are taken back to the scientist for review. After approval, the sketches are turned over to draftsman for complete drawings of the instrument and its component parts. The instrument maker works from these drawings, fabricating each piece, assembling the instrument, testing and calibrating it.

The Instrument Section has many qualified men -- electrical and mechanical engineers, draftsmen, glassblowers, instrument makers, machinists, welders, watchmakers, opticians, and tool and die makers. Mr. Crisp has found it very difficult to recruit men capable of the specialized job performed by the NIH Instrument Section. Most of his draftsmen are former NIH instrument makers.

The Instrument Section runs the gamut from welding to putting a balance wheel in a watch. The care of all watches and chronographs at NIH is its responsibility. One of the Section's big jobs was the building of Dr. Wilton Earle's three-ton camera.

Mr. Crisp's section is now busy moving to new quarters in Building 13. Here they will have more room for one of their additional services -- maintenance and repair of commercially made instruments.

SAFETY TIPS

Hidden among the 560 minor scratches, bruises, burns, and sprains which have occurred so far this year are a surprising number of potentially serious accidents.

Within the last few weeks, two persons received painful ultraviolet eye burns; a can of infectious glassware was delivered to the wash unit without being sterilized; and an investigator suffered minor face burns when he attempted to destroy collodion cotton with sodium hydroxide sticks. One hundred milligrams of an organic ozonide spontaneously exploded with great violence as a technician approached a scale to weigh the sample -- detonation a minute later would have caused serious injury rather than a few face scratches.

A new employee burned his hands when he was handling cresoline because he did not realize the hazardous nature of this chemical, and a cleaner burned his hands when he removed a broken bottle partially filled with a chemical which had been discarded into the regular trash receptacle.

From a review of this unpredictable pattern of happenings, it is difficult to determine where the next serious accident will strike. An increase in accident awareness will decrease the incidence of minor injury and at the same time decrease the possibility of major injury.

When there are many instruments of one type on the station which need frequent adjustment, Mr. Crisp arranges for his men to have factory training in the care of such equipment.

DR. CHALKLEY RETIRES FROM NIH NOVEMBER 30

NIH said goodbye to a good friend, an able scientist, and an efficient administrator when Dr. Harold W. Chalkley retired on November 30.

For the past three years, Dr. Chalkley was Assistant Chief of NCI's Grants and Fellowships Branch. In this capacity, he helped to direct a Nation-wide program of cancer research grants and was responsible for the review and evaluation of fellowship applications.

Dr. Chalkley joined the Hygienic Laboratory in 1928 and came to the NCI Laboratory of Biology in 1941. He is well known for his scientific investigations in cell physiology, especially the physiology and chemistry of cell division. He was elected to the Washington Academy of Sciences for his outstanding work in this field.

On November 25, many of Dr. Chalkley's friends and associates honored him with a farewell party in Top Cottage.

PUNCH CARD SYSTEM TO BE INSTALLED AT NIH

A new addition to the family of NIH Central Services will be a Machine Tabulating Section. The purpose of this Section is to help simplify record-keeping and to mechanize accounting and statistical procedures throughout NIH by use of a punch card system.

At present a survey is underway to help determine and schedule the workload of the Section and to make sure that persons who might make use of its services are not overlooked.

Forms are now being distributed to the administrative officers of each Institute. If you feel a punch card system would be useful in your work, fill out a form. A machine technician will follow up and discuss your application with you.

If you desire additional information regarding the punch card equipment and how it may fit in with your present or future needs, call Charles Green (Ext. 2040) or Paul Kibler (Ext. 2143). The first delivery of punch card equipment is scheduled for January 2, 1953.