NEW OFFICERS ELECTED BY R & W

At its annual meeting in Wilson Hall, December 10, the NIH Recreation and Welfare Association chose new officers for 1953 and adopted a revised set of by-laws.

Dr. Gordon Seger of NCI and Mr. Dan O'Keefe of the Clinical Center were reelected to serve as president and vice president, respectively. The other officers are treasurer, Hazel Rea, NIMH; recording secretary, Betty Schreckengast, NIDR; and corresponding secretary, Betty O'Toole, OD. The new Board of Directors includes Erv Liljegren, NIAMD; Joe McLoughlin, NINDS; Lim Nef, NIDR; Lillian Rankin, DRG; and Julia Rowady, NIMH.

The newly adopted by-laws, effective January 1, 1953, were written by a committee headed by Miss Ora Marshino of NCI. Copies will be distributed to all R& W Association members. An important change provides for division representatives for each organizational unit of NIH. These representatives will be members of the Executive Council and will serve as liaison between their units and the Association.

Soon after the new officers assume their duties, the president will appoint a chairman in each of these divisions of NIH to conduct an election at which a representative will be elected. When these representatives take their places on the Executive Council they will replace the newly elected Board of Directors.

The R & W Association has enjoyed a most successful year in 1952. Membership now totals 820. Discount lists for 1953 will be issued to members soon and will carry the names of more than 150 firms, compared to 90 last year. Many of the new listings are in Bethesda and Silver Spring.

FIRST GROUP MOVES TO CLINICAL CENTER

The Clinical Center staff recently moved from Bldg. 1 to new quarters in the Clinical Center.

The group now occupies Wings A and E on the first floor. A directory has been distributed to all NIH employees, listing the new room numbers and telephone extensions of Clinical Center personnel.

If you have occasion to go to the new offices, you are asked to enter the building through the main lobby entrance. Mrs. Henry of the Clinical Center staff will be on hand to direct you to the proper office.

Except for the wings now occupied, the Clinical Center is under the supervision of the building contractor and not open to employees, except for those on official tours. Mrs. Henry (Ext. 719) can give you information about these tours.
Studies in Fatty Acid Synthesis

No. 85 in a Series

Dr. Stadtman is shown setting up a paper chromatogram for separation of compounds.

It is now well established that an activated acetate derivative is involved in the biosynthesis of numerous biologically important compounds, namely, fatty acids, steroids, etc. Much of the current knowledge regarding the chemical nature of the "active acetate" intermediate and of the individual reactions involved in the synthesis of fatty acids has been derived from studies on an obscure microorganism, Clostridium kluyveri. This bacterium is unique in that its energy and carbon metabolism is concerned solely with the conversion of ethanol and acetate to short-chain fatty acids.

Dr. H. A. Barker of the University of California, who discovered and isolated this bacterium from mud in Holland, immediately recognized its great value as an experimental tool with which to study the intermediary metabolism of fatty acids. Subsequent experiments in Dr. Barker's laboratory led to the discovery that soluble cell-free extracts of C. kluyveri catalyze the complete synthesis and oxidation of fatty acids and many reactions in this process were characterized.

Two years ago Dr. Stadtman joined the staff of the Laboratory of Cellular Physiology at NIH, where he has continued his studies on the biochemistry of fatty acid synthesis.

From these studies it has been demonstrated that S-acetyl-coenzyme A (acetyl CoA) is the "active acetate" intermediate in fatty acid synthesis and oxidation. An enzyme, phosphotransacetylase, isolated from extracts of C. kluyveri, catalyzes the net synthesis of acetyl CoA from acetyl phosphate and CoA. Other experiments in Dr. Stadtman's laboratory by Dr. R. M. Burton have shown that acetyl CoA is formed also by the oxidation of acetate aldolase. The enzyme catalyzing this oxidation was purified from the bacterial extracts.

Although it has been long recognized that fatty acids must be activated prior to oxidation, the nature of this activation was only recently clarified by the discovery in the bacterial extracts of an enzyme, CoA-transphorase, that catalyzes the transfer of COA from acetyl-CoA to longer-chain fatty acids to form the corresponding acyl-CoA derivatives. These derivatives appear to be the activated intermediates in fatty acid oxidation.

The information obtained from studies on the bacterial enzyme system has provided a basis for studies on higher animals where the mechanism of fatty acid oxidation now appears to be similar and in many respects identical to that obtained in C. kluyveri.
A few months after Lloyd Bankard came to NIH as a member of the guard force, the United States entered World War II. Many security provisions were instituted at NIH and, as a guard, it was Lloyd’s job to enforce them. He was on the midnight shift and was frequently stationed at the main entrance gate, which was opened only to those with passes.

At a prearranged signal from a downtown source, the guards were responsible for blacking out the entire NIH reservation and notifying key personnel. Lloyd’s previous experience as a guard at the Smithonian Institution was a big help on his new job.

When the motor dispatcher went into the Army, Lloyd took over his work until his return. He then moved into the Purchase Unit of Buildings Management Branch. It was a one-man operation in those days, but now there are four employees.

Lloyd, as Assistant Head of the Purchase Unit, recommends the items of supplies and equipment which need annual replacement in the Branch. He is property officer for the Branch, keeping official property control records. As part of his duties, Lloyd examines bids for conformance with technical specifications. He prepares justifications, estimates and budgets, and helps to select the sources of supply. In addition, Lloyd is one of two notaries at NIH.

Born in Carroll County, Md., in 1906, Lloyd attended local schools, and commercial school in Hanover, Pa. Too young to be in World War I, Lloyd later joined the Army and served a hitch with the Medical Corps, stationed for a long time in Honolulu. He took a job as an automobile salesman after his Army service.

Since 1948, Lloyd has been a member of the Credit Committee of the NIH Credit Union. The Bankards have a son, Robert, and a daughter, Gail. Robert will soon be inducted into the Army, and Gail is a student at Western Maryland College. A biology major, Gail hopes to work at NIH after graduation.

Mr. and Mrs. Bankard make their home in Kensington, Md., where Lloyd is active in the Masonic Lodge. He is also one of the trustees of St. Paul’s Methodist Church in Kensington.
LIBRARY PLANS FOR CLINICAL CENTER MOVE

The NIH Library has been making detailed plans for its move to the Clinical Center in 1953, where it will occupy several wings on the fifth floor.

The new NIH Library floor plan is based on principles of accessibility and convenience for the user. An attractive periodical reading room is planned. The latest issues of some 400 journals will be displayed, and readers will have free access to any part of the stacks.

A double provision has been made for literature searches. A small reserve collection of journals, together with all the bibliographic materials necessary for searches in chemistry, will be placed adjacent to the periodical reading room. The remaining indexes, abstracts, bibliographies, and reference works will be concentrated near the public catalog and the reference librarians' desks.

Instead of a central reading room, provision has been made for reading tables to be scattered throughout the stack areas. In one wing will be monographic literature in classified order, while another wing will house sets of journals and serials arranged in a single alphabetical file. Both these collections will be adjacent to the passenger elevators.

The circulation desk, also near these elevators, will be equipped with a pneumatic tube terminal, which has been planned for ease in receiving requests for books.

The Translating Unit will be housed near the periodical reading room, and there will be a separate library for patients.

CORRECTION

The telephone number of Charles Greene of the Machine Tabulating Section should be Ext. 2049 instead of Ext. 2040 as listed in the last issue of the NIH Record.

BRITISH FILM

A British film, "Peripheral Vascular Diseases," will be shown in Wilson Hall at 9:30 a.m., on January 9. Anyone interested is invited to attend. The program is sponsored by the National Heart Institute.

GOT A PROBLEM? WELL, HERE'S THE ANSWER

Located in Room 21 A, Building 1, is the Employee Relations Section. A part of the Personnel Branch, the Section plays an important role in fostering better working relationships at NIH.

One of its functions is to provide counseling services for all employees. These services begin with an induction interview. New employees meet with Mary Bertha or Dorothy Wipf, who give them information concerning NIH, its purpose and organization, as well as acquainting them with the basic rules and regulations pertinent to their work. Employees are encouraged to return for help or guidance in matters that cannot be resolved within their own work situation by their supervisors or through the administrative office within the Institute where they are employed.

The rights of employees are protected by NIH and Civil Service regulations, and there is an established Agency grievance procedure that employees may use if they have a grievance that cannot be resolved within the work situation. The Section has found that by analyzing employee grievances it serves as a barometer of the effectiveness of personnel administration. When flaws are detected, the Section recommends corrective action, thus precluding future grievances from the same cause. In general, job grievances commonly stem from personality clashes, classification of positions, working conditions, salary and leave regulations.

Another part of the Employee Relations work is concerned with the job. Employees are assured that, whatever their problem, it is held in the utmost confidence by members of the Section. Educational and recreational materials are also available from the Section. College catalogs, adult education bulletins, civic activities notices, and vacation information folders are always on display in Room 21 A.

Notary services are also available at no charge to employees. The Section also works closely with the NIH Recreation and Welfare Association and administers the Association's emergency loan fund.

In summing up, the Employee Relations Section stands ready to help make your job at NIH more pleasant, convenient, and satisfying.