SAFETY IS STRESSED IN CC BLOOD BANK

The Clinical Center Blood Bank will utilize many unique control procedures. In addition, it will provide an opportunity for research in the development of improved methods of blood collection, processing, and transfusion. In this connection, all blood used for transfusion will be collected by the Blood Bank staff, using their own equipment, since it is difficult to conduct a comprehensive research study using blood collected and processed by another laboratory.

The research aspects of the Clinical Center Blood Bank are all related to developing safer methods of blood transfusion. Technicians will use four cross-match techniques routinely. It is customary for blood banks to rely on manufacturer's tests of the bleeding kits, solutions and other supplies used; but the Clinical Center Blood Bank will retest each lot of equipment before use, to attain a maximum of assurance of the safety of the blood used for transfusion.

Safety precautions will be emphasized by the blood bank. Cultures will be made routinely of the residue in returned bottles to evaluate the potential hazards of contamination incidental to manipulation. A special time-temperature indicator will be attached to each bottle of stored blood to guard against the use of blood stored under improper conditions. Outdated blood will be tested for sterility to evaluate the adequacy of the blood collection and storage procedures.

One of the most unusual practices to be followed in the Clinical Blood Bank is that each patient requiring a transfusion will be given the freshest bottle of his type of blood.

NIH LIBRARY WILL HOLD OPEN HOUSE

All employees are invited to an open house in the NIH Library's new quarters in the Clinical Center on December 23, from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. The central reception point will be in the periodical reading room, 5-N-232, located opposite the central elevator bank. Staff members will be stationed throughout the library area to explain the new locations and arrangements.

The library has completed its move, and the collections of books

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM DEC. 24

All NIH employees are invited to attend the annual Christmas program in Wilson Hall on December 24. It will begin at 9:45 a.m., with a repeat performance at 10:45 a.m. The theme will be "Christmas Legends." Christmas music will be provided by 36 NIH carolers, directed by Rosalie Kasaba. Dr. Sebrell will give his Christmas greeting, and the program will close with community singing. R & W is assisting NIH in presenting the program.
A pure compound which temporarily lowers blood pressure in animals has been isolated from rhododendron leaves by the Laboratory of Chemistry of Natural Products, NHI.

The substance, called andromedotoxin, resembles the veratrum alkaloids in physiological actions, but contains no nitrogen. The structure of the compound is unknown. It has a strong but brief hypotensive effect in low doses, sometimes depressing blood pressure by as much as 30 to 40 percent.

This work has been carried on by two teams of researchers in NHI. Isolation procedures for obtaining the material from the rhododendron leaves were conducted by Drs. Evan C. Horning, H. B. Wood, V. L. Stromberg, and J. C. Keresztesy, with the technical assistance of Miss Miriam P. Sharp and Mr. David L. Rogerson. Pharmacological work with animals was done at Emory University School of Medicine by Drs. Neil C. Moran and A. P. Richardson.

Over 1,000 pounds of the leaves were required to make about 1 ounce of the chalk-white, clumpy substance. The leaves came from West Virginia and North Carolina and were collected by the Department of Agriculture. The material is extracted from the ground leaves with boiling water, which is then filtered and concentrated to a small volume. Unwanted substances are eliminated by the addition of alcohol. The final purification is done by a selective absorption process.

The drug has never been tested clinically, but may have therapeutic possibilities. Although it will not be a cure for hypertension, it may be found useful in lowering the blood pressure in certain cases of hypertension. The laboratory is now conducting studies on the toxicity of the drug in normal dogs.
BLOOD BANK Cont’d

available in the bank. This is desirable because whole blood deteriorates progressively during storage and cannot be used when more than 21 days old. In order to provide the freshest possible blood, the Blood Bank will need a large list of prospective donors who are willing to be "on call" to come in and donate when there is a need for a particular type of blood. Under such a program, it will be possible to provide optimum service to the patient with a minimum participation by donors.

Dr. W. H. Sebrell, Jr., NIH Director, stated: "Seldom is an opportunity presented to us to perform a humanitarian service for those so closely associated with NIH. You are asked to give a little of your blood to help the Clinical Center patients, who are contributing so much themselves to further medical research at NIH.

"I am confident that you will respond quickly and willingly to this appeal, placing your name on the list of volunteer blood donors. I am further asking all supervisors to cooperate by excusing their employees from official duties while they make their blood donations."

Call Mrs. Spruce, ext. 2248, today and add your name to the donor list.
TEAM APPROACH USED
BY CLINICAL CENTER
NURSING DEPARTMENT

Nursing in a clinical research center provides an opportunity for nurses to participate in the development of new techniques and procedures and in providing expert care to patients who are admitted for study and therapy. In addition to performing regular nursing activities, the Clinical Center nurse participates as a member of a research team on the unit or service. She cooperate with the medical staff in planning for the total care of patients, and functions as a member of a nursing team to provide this care. Frequent conferences are held for the purpose of identifying, exploring, and formulating plans for the solution of problems related to the care of patients. Because of the nurse's place in the patients' daily lives, she is able to encourage their participation in the research program and to provide information for other staff members which might otherwise be unavailable.

In addition, research nursing requires an exacting attention to the details of bedside care and research procedures. Inaccuracies and omissions may mean that hours of work have been wasted.

The Clinical Center Nursing Department, under the direction of Miss Ruth L. Johnson, has found that many of the problems encountered in research nursing may be solved not only through the conference method, but also through staff education and training. Orientation and in-service programs are carried on at department, service, and unit levels for nursing personnel. The general orientation is given at the department level, and specialized needs are dealt with on each service or unit. On-the-job training or refresher courses are held for practical nurses and attendants.

As of November 30, personnel in the Nursing Department numbered 109 professional nurses, 52 practical nurses and attendants, and 17 ward clerks and secretaries.

Future plans for the department include nursing studies in the areas of clinical nursing, nursing administration, and staff education.

The NIH Library has moved to new quarters on the fifth floor of the Clinical Center. Shown here is a corner of the periodical reading room.

DR. FRITZ REDL JOINS
NIMH CLINICAL STAFF

Dr. Fritz Redl, one of this country's foremost authorities on child group psychology, was recently assigned as a Visiting Scientist to the NIMH Children's Service in the Clinical Center. Dr. Redl is studying treatment techniques for the emotionally disturbed child. Until his appointment, he was Professor of Social Work at Wayne University in Detroit, Michigan.

Austrian-born Dr. Redl received his Ph.D. from the University of Vienna in 1925 and his training in Child Analysis from the Vienna Psychoanalytic Institute. He had many years of teaching experience in public schools, and devoted much time to clinical counseling.

After coming to this country in 1936, Dr. Redl participated in a research project for the General Education Board of the Rockefeller Foundation. Until he assumed his professorship at Wayne University, he lectured at the University of Michigan and the University of Chicago. He has served as director and consultant for several group therapy projects and child guidance centers, and is the author of numerous scientific papers. His books "Children Who Hate" and "Controls from Within" have received wide acclaim.

A library has been made comfortable and inviting. A Chemistry Reading Room with restricted circulation has been established for the research chemists who use the library for systematic search.

The library has seats for 83 readers. In addition to conventional reading desks and tables, desks that are interchangeable with book shelves are placed in the stack areas, permitting readers to sit near the books they are using.

The Translating Unit has moved from Building 16A to new quarters adjacent to the library on the fifth floor of the Center. A conference room has been provided for oral translations.

NIH CHRISTMAS FLOAT

The NIH float entered in the Bethesda Christmas parade on December 11 won a trophy for singing. The float, decorated by the Medical Arts Section and Buildings Management Branch, carried nine carolers dressed in Old English costumes.