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TRAUTMAN LEAVES NIH JUNE 24; NEW DIRECTOR NAMED

Dr. John A. Trautman, Clinical Center Director, will leave NIH on June 24 to become Medical Officer in Charge of the PHS Hospital in Fort Worth, Texas, Dr. Leonard A. Scheele, Surgeon General, announced today. Dr. Trautman will be succeeded by Dr. Donald W. Patrick, who is now Medical Officer in Charge of the Baltimore PHS Hospital.

A career officer of 25 years' service in PHS, Dr. Trautman has directed Clinical Center activities since July 1, 1951. Before coming to NIH, he was in charge of the Staten Island and Cleveland PHS Hospitals. He has also served in PHS facilities in Washington, San Francisco, New Orleans, and Portland, Maine.

In his Fort Worth post, Dr. Trautman will be in charge of a 1000-bed hospital facility devoted mainly to the study and treatment of psychiatric disorders and narcotics addiction. The 1400-acre station provides for such patient industries as farming, clothing manufacture, and cattle raising.

Dr. Patrick brings 24 years of PHS experience to his new position of Clinical Center Director. He has been in charge of the Baltimore Hospital since 1949, and for two years previous was Medical Officer in Charge of the Detroit Hospital. His tour of duty has included service at the PHS Hospitals in Chicago, Evanston, Staten Island, Lexington, San Francisco, and Seattle. He obtained his B. S. degree at the University of Nebraska in 1928, and his M. D. at the University of Colorado in 1930.

STATUE OF GODDESS STIRS CONTROVERSY

Photo by Morris Warman, New York Herald Tribune.

When the New York Herald Tribune in its May 12 edition carried the picture shown above with the caption, "N. J. Lanni modeling a hand for the five-foot statue of Bethesda, goddess of water," quite a controversy was touched off. Mr. Don Reed of SRB, who has been gathering data on the origins of Bethesda for a slide series on NIH history, saw the item and called the Herald Tribune's Washington bureau about the source of their information.

The paper's local office contacted the Library of Congress, which reported no evidence of such a goddess. The search then turned to the Monument Division of the New York City Parks Department, subject of the original story.

About 150 years ago, the statue in question was placed atop a kiosk in Tompkins Square Park. It was one of the first zinc castings ever made in this country. Some years later, the statue toppled off the kiosk and was stored in a shed. Four years ago scouts from the Monument Division found it. It is now being repaired for casting in bronze.

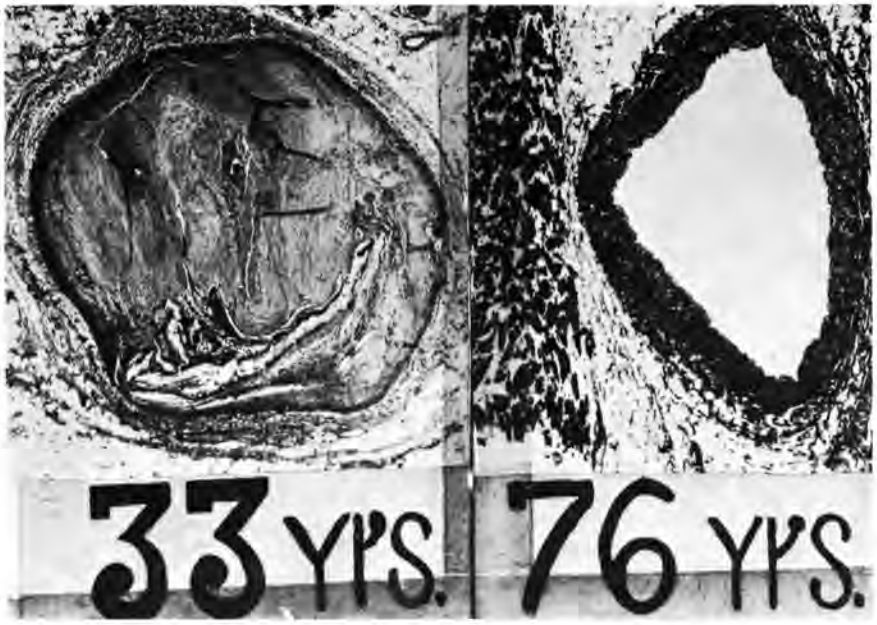
As for the name Bethesda, it is scarcely legible on the zinc base and, with no other evidence, the faded letters might not even spell Bethesda. But officials in the Parks Department recall seeing a catalogue reference to "Bethesda, goddess of water, with faith, hope, and charity, bringing water to Tompkins Square Park."

The Herald Tribune then consulted Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion. Authorities there confirmed Mr. Reed's previous information that Bethesda is of Hebrew

(See Statue, Page 3)

Studies on Cholesterol

No. 118 in a Series



Arteriosclerosis is not necessarily concerned with the aging process, as the microscopic sections of coronary arteries of two males aged 33 and 76 indicate. The one on the left shows extensive arteriosclerosis which led to death of the younger man, while the one on the right is free of the disease.

At the recent meeting of the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology, three NHI scientists presented a paper entitled "Further Requirements for Enzymatic Degradation of Cholesterol." Drs. Donald S. Fredrickson, Marjorie G. Horning, and Christian B. Anfinsen reported that they have isolated for study a system that may duplicate approximately one of the ways in which the fatty material, cholesterol, is processed in the human body.

This breakingdown of cholesterol through oxidation previously could be observed only in the living animal or in living tissue slices from animals. The new method of study employs a cell-free system. The system is prepared from mouse liver tissues, processed, purified, and concentrated by a laboratory procedure developed by NHI scientists.

For this process, mitochondria are combined with a soluble fraction of a liver cell homogenate, thus constituting the two portions of the liver cell. The combination seems to be necessary for the oxidation of cholesterol. The new method is more efficient than previous ones because four or five times as much cholesterol can be observed undergoing the reaction, making less difficult the complex task of obtaining measurements.

Cholesterol is a complex lipid, insoluble in water. It is found in almost every tissue of the body, and is made by almost every tissue, including the artery. The amount of cholesterol in the bloodstream has been studied in connection with almost every disease, and its metabolism seems to vary widely with many diseases. More is known about the synthesis of cholesterol than is known about its oxidation or degradation.

Cholesterol is found in the plaques that get into the walls of the arteries (as illustrated above), and it is the presence of this lipid that has led to the widespread study now going on in atherosclerosis.

This cell-free system is a step forward in an important area of research. Scientists in many laboratories throughout the country are seeking to discover whether a flaw in the body's mechanisms for handling fats, possibly fats in the diet, is in some way responsible for atherosclerosis. In this form of heart disease, lesions containing fatty materials help clog the blood vessels. Atherosclerosis causes about nine out of ten heart attacks, and is involved in at least 25 percent of deaths from all causes.

Here and There

Publication

A compilation and index of PHS Intramural Research has recently been completed. Interested NIH personnel may obtain a copy from their Institute Directors.

Materials Needed

The Occupational Therapy Section of the Clinical Center can use all your left-over yarn and yard goods. The materials must be clean and moth-free. Bring or send your contributions to the O. T. office in Room 4-D-39, Bldg. 10.

NMI Honors

Dr. Victor H. Haas, NMI Director, has been selected as one of the three Washington area scientists annually elected by the D. C. Chapter to membership in Sigma Xi, national scientific research society. The election was announced at the annual dinner meeting of the Society on May 24.

Dr. Charles Armstrong, retired NMI scientist, was recently the recipient of Georgetown University's Vicennial Medal, given in recognition of lecturing to the University's medical school classes for over 20 years.

Dr. Margaret Pittman, NMI, received an honorary degree of Doctor of Laws at the May 30 commencement exercises of her undergraduate alma mater, Hendrix College, in Conway, Arkansas.

Gerontology Group

Interested personnel are invited to attend meetings of the newly formed Gerontology Luncheon Group, which meets the first and third Thursday of each month in the Clinical Center Snack Bar. The informal meetings feature talks by PHS scientists on various aspects of the problem of aging.

Vacation Plans

If you are undecided where you would like to spend your vacation this summer, be sure to consult the collection of vacation folders in the Personnel Branch, Rm. 1-S-231B, Bldg. 10.

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R & W NOTES

The Cinema Series Committee will end its subscription season with the showing of "Thief of Bagdad," starring Douglas Fairbanks. The film will be presented June 15 and 16 at 8:00 p.m. in the Clinical Center Auditorium.

The NIH mailroom has had to discontinue its practice of selling stamps for employees' personal use. In the Clinical Center, stamps are now sold at the stand operated by the Maryland Workshop for the Blind. The R & W Association has made a revolving fund available for the purchase of stamps for resale to employees in the mailrooms of Buildings 1 and T-6.

The R & W Executive Council voted to give one-half of the profits from the three performances of the Hamsters' show to the Clinical Center Patient Welfare Fund.

MEMORIAL SERVICE HELD FOR DR. W. S. FONES

Dr. Jesse P. Greenstein, Chief, Laboratory of Biochemistry, NCI, conducted a memorial service May 12 for Dr. William S. Fones, Laboratory chemist who died suddenly on May 11. The service was attended by Dr. Fones' friends and co-workers in NCI.

Dr. Fones had been at NIH since 1947, when he joined the Clinical Biochemistry Research Section of the Laboratory of Biochemistry. Born in Thaxton, Va., he received his A.B. degree from Lynchburg College, his A.M. and Ph.D. from Ohio State University. For a year before coming to NIH, he was a teaching assistant at Ohio State. At the time of his death, Dr. Fones was conducting studies on the structural and optical specificity of renal acylase I and pancreatic carboxypeptidase.

He is survived by his wife and two children.

STATUE Cont'd

origin. It was originally Beth Hesda and came from the Aramaic. It could mean house of grace, or house of loving kindness--house of fishes, or house of olives. It was the name applied to the Biblical pool of healing water in Jerusalem mentioned in the New Testament in the fifth chapter of John.

NIH Spotlight

Anita Tierney

Mrs. Anita Tierney's many years acquaintance with hospital procedures led her to her present job in NHI. She is the technician who performs the routine electrocardiograms on both in-patients and out-patients in the Clinical Center. This service is provided by the Section of Cardiodynamics, Clinic of General Medicine and Experimental Therapeutics, NHI. Currently, the department handles approximately 125 electrocardiograms a month, and the number is expected to increase appreciably as more beds become available.

In 1951, Anita joined the Public Health Service as secretary to NHI's Cardiovascular Unit in Baltimore. While there, the work of the Heart Institute and the treatment of patients with heart disease stimulated her interest in training as a technician. When the Cardiovascular Unit moved to Bethesda in June 1953, the patient load was not sufficiently heavy to warrant her services as a technician, and she served temporarily as secretary to Dr. Luther L. Terry, Chief of the Clinic. In the early part of 1954, Anita was assigned to the present department on the seventh floor of the Clinical Center, where the routine electrocardiography is done for both ambulatory and bed patients.

Anita's interest in hospital work dates back some 17 years, when she held the position of Admitting Officer at the University Hospital in Baltimore. During this period, in addition to becoming familiar with a variety of hospital activities, she broadened her outside interests by taking business, scientific, and cultural courses.

Anita's husband is a legal analyst in the Bureau of Internal Revenue in Washington. The Tierneys are living in Bethesda temporarily while awaiting completion of the home they are building in Clarksville, Md.

THE NIH RECORD LOOKS AT "OFF THE RECORD"

If the NIH Record staff could follow the lead of the Hamsters, we might reveal many stories as startling and entertaining as those depicted in the 1954 version of "Life at NIH."

An opportunity to put out an issue telling all the facts or scooping the campus has long been the editor's dream, but the sword of Damocles, in the form of a blue pencil, turns that dream into a biweekly nightmare.

"Off the Record" ourselves for a moment, we got many a chuckle from the highjinks perpetrated by such stalwart thespians as George Ann Johnson and Roy Perry, and the obvious talents of the girl reporters made us wish we had as large and gifted a staff.

If we had "Oscars" to award, we'd like to present them to each and every person who had a hand in this top-notch production. And a very special award should go to the nine beauties who demonstrated that the Institutes have many assets that can't be put down on paper.

NIAMD EMPLOYEE RECEIVES AWARD

Mr. Samuel M. Takahashi, biologist in the NIAMD Laboratory of Biochemistry and Nutrition, was recently presented with a $50 employee award by Dr. Floyd S. Daft, NIAMD Director. Mr. Takahashi received the award for his development of a device which eliminates much diet waste and saves time in caring for and feeding animals used in nutrition studies.

HOGEBOOM APPOINTED NCI SECTION HEAD

Dr. J. R. Heller, NCI Director, recently announced the appointment of Dr. George Hogeboom as head of the Cellular Biology Section of the Laboratory of Biology. Dr. Hogeboom has worked in the Laboratory of Biology since he joined the Public Health Service and NCI in 1948. He had been head of the Cell Chemistry Unit of the Cellular Biology Section since 1950.

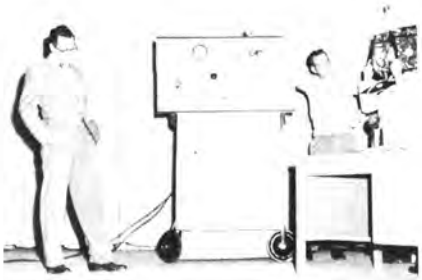
HIGHLIGHTS OF 1954 HAMSTER PRODUCTION, "OFF THE RECORD"

Julia Rowady and Erv Liljegren treat patient George Ann Johnson.

Miss Naval Hospital, George Ann Johnson.

Dick Hopkins and Serafim Guerra ask directions of Julia Rowady.

Entire cast of Hamster show on stage for Finale.



Erv Liljegren and Richard Kaiser demonstrate secretary to Roy Perry.

Byron Olson arrives on campus as students wait to greet him.

Institute "assets" gather around Miss Clinical Center.

Photos by Southall.

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