FRENCH NURSE HONORED AT CC

Mlle. Genevieve de Galard-Terraube, "the angel of Dien Bien Phu," became the first nurse to be given an honorary membership in the Association of Military Surgeons, at a ceremony held July 29 in the Clinical Center. Dr. Leonard A. Scheele, PHS Surgeon General and President of the Association, also presented her with a small gold cross, copied from the Association seal. Following the ceremony, Mlle. de Galard toured Clinical Center nursing facilities with Miss Ruth Johnson, Chief of the Nursing Department.

NIMH STUDIES GROUP OF NORMAL CONTROLS

The Children's Unit of the Clinical Psychiatric Studies Branch of NIMH is currently buzzing with the activities of a "normal control" group of boys who were selected for study because of their exceptional all-around adjustment. The eight boys are all fourth and fifth graders from the Washington, D. C., area.

To the boys, the Unit is "Camp 4-E," and they know that they are there not only to have a good time, but also to help the researchers find out what games and program activities are most enjoyed by children of their age. They know that the "counsellors" are there to play with them, but that some doctors also will be around to observe them and to talk with them about their experiences. The research and nursing staffs will make organized group observations.

In addition to studying the group adjustment of these children, the NIMH investigators hope to learn more about "just what is right with a child"--that is, what his emotional needs are.

CLINICAL CENTER HAS FIRST ANNIVERSARY

Tremendous expansion and excellent progress have marked the first year's operation of the Clinical Center. From opening day July 6, 1953, to the close of business July 5, 1954, the Clinical Center has grown so rapidly that it now employs more people than any of the Institutes.

Construction work is virtually completed. With a few exceptions, all patient and service areas have been equipped, as well as most of the laboratories. Numerous problems have been overcome by the various departments in achieving a smooth operation of the patient care and research program.

In order to staff the Center, new positions had to be established and recruitment sources developed. Negotiations with the Personnel Branch of NIH and the NIH Board of Civil Service Examiners resulted in the issuance of Civil Service examinations, highlighted by the first NIH nationwide exam--Professional Nurse. At the end of the fiscal year, there were 536 CC employees. This figure does not include personnel hired as a result of the CC needs for laundry, communications, housekeeping and buildings management services.

The number of inpatients progressed from 17 on opening day to 180 a year later, with a total of 866 being admitted and discharged during the period. They came from all parts of the U. S., although the majority live in Maryland, Virginia, and D. C. Several have come from foreign countries. The average stay is 30 days and patients of all ages, races and economic classes are represented. Over 100 clinical studies have been initiated. At the end of one year, 250 beds had been activated and plans are under way to have 373 beds available by next June.
The discovery of new compounds present in tumor-bearing animals is one of the objectives toward which cancer research is directed. A productive approach is the systematic analysis of extracts from normal and tumor tissues.

Current studies by Dr. Walter C. Schneider of NCI's Laboratory of Biology indicate the presence of hitherto undetermined substances in extracts made from tumors of mice, in concentrations from six to thirty times greater than those found in extracts of normal mouse tissues. These substances—desoxyribosides or desoxyribotides—are derivatives of desoxypentose nucleic acid, which is closely associated with heredity. To determine the presence of these compounds, Dr. Schneider utilized Thermobacterium acidophilus R-26, a strain of bacteria which specifically requires desoxyribosides for growth, and which permits detection of the compounds in extremely low concentrations.

Although the studies with mice seemed to indicate a profound difference between normal and cancerous tissues, Dr. Schneider found in carrying these studies over to rats that the total amount of desoxyribosides in extracts of rat liver tumors was no different from that found in normal rat liver extracts.

However, paper chromatographic analysis of the desoxyribosides of both tissues showed that the compounds in the normal rat liver extract differed qualitatively from those found in the liver tumor extract. The main compound found in the normal liver was desoxycytidine, while the liver tumor contained substantial amounts of thymidine. Further tests have shown that the blood of the normal rat also contained desoxycytidine, in contrast with the blood of the tumor-bearing rat, which contained thymidine.

The results with rats would thus seem to indicate a qualitative difference between normal and cancerous tissues, as well as between the blood of normal and of tumor-bearing animals. These studies are being extended to other species and other physiological and pathological states, to determine whether the presence of thymidine in the tumor-bearing animal is a unique property of cancer.
The R & W Association has accepted checks totaling $320 for the Patient Welfare Fund. The presentation was made at the July council meeting by Mr. James Davis, Chief of the Supply Management Branch, on behalf of the manufacturers who participated in the Fourth Annual Research Equipment Exhibit held at NIH during May. This is the second time that the patient fund has benefited from the exhibit.

Mrs. Catherine Cantrell of DRG has accepted the post of business counsel for the Association, succeeding Miss Ora Marshino of NCI, who recently retired.

The membership drive is paying off. Over 100 new members have joined R & W during the past month. There are now 1,669 members in the Association. Why don't you join today?

The Hamsters announce with pleasure the election of Mrs. Susan Oliver as director of the musical comedy to be given at NIH in late October or early November. Mrs. Rosalie Kasaba has offered to act as associate director to assist in the planning. Under such capable guidance, and with the wealth of talent available at NIH, this will be another "must" for your fall calendar. The musical comedy selected and the dates of the production will be announced later.

Each spring, as many of you know, the Hamsters present "Life at NIH." They feel it is highly important to start assembling materials for this production as far in advance as possible. They are interested in skits depicting or caricaturing some aspect of life at NIH. Anyone willing to prepare a skit running not longer than 15 or 20 minutes is asked to submit ideas to Dr. Richard Williams, Hamsters script coordinator, Room 2506, Bldg. T-6. Each script will be given careful consideration.

Dramatics, music, dance, or a combination of any of these forms may be used. As you know, "Life at NIH" takes the form of a series of skits. The Hamsters are also interested, however, in any ideas for a theme or story line around which various skits can be woven. They would also welcome ideas for unusual and clever staging.

So many activities claim the time of Bette O'Toole, of SMB's Procurement Section, that it is difficult to understand how she manages on a 24-hour day.

As a Purchasing Agent, she maintains a control register of Clinical Center requisitions on construction funds. Until a few months ago she was detailed to the Research Facilities Planning Branch, which was responsible for purchasing furniture and equipment for the Clinical Center. Prior to joining NIH nearly three years ago, Bette worked for the General Services Administration and the Bureau of Naval Personnel in the Navy Department. Los Angeles was her home for three years before that.

Bette has been one of the mainstays of the R & W Association. As a member of the Executive Council, she has participated in arranging the various programs. She has also appeared in Hamster productions. Those who saw the 1954 show a few months ago will remember the petite and pretty Bette as "Miss Microbe." Her artistic skill has been demonstrated as a decorations committee member for R & W dances. Last year she was also corresponding secretary for the Association. Several weeks ago Bette appeared on a radio program, the "Government Employee News Roundup" on station WEAM, at the request of the sponsor, and spoke about the organization and activities of the R & W.

A never-ending and constantly increasing job is the one that falls to the Clinical Center Housekeeping Section. Few of us realize that more and more space in the Center is being gradually completed by the contractor. Mrs. Patricia Boyer and the staff that assists her in the maintenance of Building 10 are responsible for cleaning and preparing space newly released for occupancy.

The collection of trash is handled in a special way by the Housekeeping Section. It is gathered and packed in 30-gallon cans and delivered to floor B2, where it is transported on electric mules through the tunnel to the incinerator. At the present time, the housekeeping staff also delivers feed, dry ice, and similar supplies used in the CC.

Cleaning of public and laboratory areas falls to the night crew, while patient areas are cared for by the daytime cleaners. Housewives among our readers should rejoice when they compare their chores to the average of 10,000 square feet that each of Mrs. Boyer's cleaners must care for daily.

Bette is one of a family of eight. Her mother still lives there, but all the children have moved to other parts of the country. Her four sisters live in the Washington area and see each other frequently. Bette lives with one of her sisters in Kensington, Md. Another sister, Frances Finney, is a secretary in the Research Branch, NIMH.

Painting with water colors is a hobby Bette thoroughly enjoys. Besides painting pictures for herself and her friends, she designs posters for church Sunday school classes. Writing poetry is another of her hobbies. She devotes a great deal of her spare time to reading books, which she prefers to watching television.

Bette has studied drama, ballroom dancing, and photographic modeling, and has found them all fascinating. Although she has many interests, she modestly claims to be a "jack of all trades, master of none."
EMPLOYEE HEALTH IS SAFEGUARDED AT NIH

The occupational health program provided for NIH employees parallels in many respects the medical services available to employees in the more progressive private industries. It is basically a preventive medical or health maintenance program, and is administered by the Employee Health Service. This is headed by Dr. John M. Lynch, with a staff consisting of a chief nurse, four staff nurses, a medical technician, a secretary-receptionist, and a records clerk.

The main Health Unit moved last January from Building 1 to shiny new quarters on the ground floor of Wing A of the Clinical Center. The new facilities now include four treatment rooms, four examination rooms, two bed-rest rooms, two reception rooms, a clinical laboratory, and an operating room for minor surgical procedures. An auxiliary Health Unit is located in T-6.

Employees are introduced to the health service through their pre-employment physical examination, when every effort is made to help them obtain the care they need to correct any physical defects detected at that time. They may be advised to consult their personal physician, dentist, or other specialist, and the health service cooperates in any followup that may be necessary. Periodic physical exams, vital in preventive medicine, are available upon request.

One of the main responsibilities of the Employee Health Service is caring for work-connected injuries and illnesses. The health service also works with the NIH Safety Officer in accident and disease prevention by reporting all injuries and suspected occupational diseases, and helping with studies to determine potential environmental hazards.

The Clinical Center staff has made a limited consultative service available to NIH employees through the Employee Health Service. Thus far, this service has been mutually beneficial, in that the Institutes providing consultation were able, while assisting the employee, to obtain study material not otherwise readily available. Arrangements for this service are made through the main Health Unit.

Full details on the health services to which NIH employees are entitled are contained in a new pamphlet now available in both Health Units.

NIH LABORATORY DESIGNS NEW WORKTABLES

One of the features of the NHI Laboratory of Technical Development’s new quarters on the fifth floor of the Clinical Center is a group of new worktables, specially designed by Robert Gorman of the Laboratory staff.

The desk-level tables, which measure 40 by 48 inches, are flexible units that may be grouped according to the needs of the laboratory module. A series of the closely spaced electrical outlets needed for the group’s electronic equipment, together with a brass grounding strip, is inlaid at the rear edge of the table’s surface.

A layer of copper sheeting under the pressed wood-fiber top prevents hum pickup and shields sensitive electronic instruments from stray electrical fields. The copper sheeting is connected to the grounding strip, in which there are tapped plug-in holes spaced at two-inch intervals. The brass grounding strips are joined when the tables are placed together, and lead off into the main ground. Shelves about ten inches from the floor hold power supplies and heavy items of equipment.

The tables, which are not available on the market, were specially built to Mr. Gorman’s specifications by a Baltimore firm.

DR. BRODIE RETURNS FROM LECTURE TOUR

Dr. Bernard B. Brodie, Chief of the NHI Laboratory of Chemical Pharmacology, recently returned from a four-week lecture tour of Great Britain and Switzerland. Invited to give a series of special lectures on pharmacology at the University of London, Dr. Brodie also spoke at St. Mary’s College, Kings College, University College, and the Imperial Chemical Industry in England, and at the Geigy Co. in Switzerland.

NIMH STUDY Cont’d

assets are. This opportunity to study normal children’s reactions to the therapeutic program activities will form a basis for comparison with the disturbed children who are admitted to Ward 4-E. At other times, Comparative data are being compiled with regard to such questions as: What situations are most likely to lead to "explosions," and what therapeutic techniques will foster healthier adjustment?

The normal group will remain in the Clinical Center until mid-August, when a new patient group will be admitted. These patients will enter because of their need for institutional treatment of hyper-aggressive behavior.