Your own particular red blood cell type consists of a combination of "factors" that may be as rare as one in 5,000. Rare or common, your blood is needed for the "NIH Panel of Typed Blood Donors."

Are you a member of the panel? A wide variety of red blood cell types is needed by DBS to test blood grouping and Rh-typing serums that are submitted by licensed manufacturers of these products before release to blood banks all over the country.

This program was initiated at NIH last year. The 576 NIH employees who have given blood samples for this purpose are now members of the panel. But many more donors are needed.

This is what you do to become a member of the panel. Fill out the reply form attached to the memorandum that will be sent to you. An appointment will be made for you to give a small sample of blood. This sample will be tested and a pocket card issued containing detailed information concerning your blood type.

After your name is placed on the panel, you will be called at intervals ranging from one to twelve times a year to give a small amount of blood (20 ml.) for testing purposes. You will then be paid a minimum of $2.00 each time you are called upon to give blood.

Full details on the program and an application blank for the initial donation will be circulated to all employees this week.
Common fungus diseases that affect the skin are usually mild, but can be annoying and sometimes incapacitating. Simple hygienic measures are often preventive, although some persons, despite good personal hygiene, are unusually susceptible.

The best known and most widespread of the fungus diseases is "athlete's foot." The first indication of infection is scaling between the toes, accompanied by itching and a painful, burning sensation. Later, blisters form under the toes and on the soles of the feet.

Recent evidence has shown that the athlete's foot fungus is often present on the feet of persons clinically free from the disease. Exposure to the fungus in swimming pools, shower stalls, and bathrooms plays only a minor role in the spread of infection. The most common cause of the disease is decreased skin resistance, which results in an activation of the dormant fungi. Keeping the feet clean and dry is the most effective preventive and therapeutic measure. A number of fungicidal medications are available.

Ringworm of the scalp, another fungus disease, usually affects children and often occurs in epidemics. It is difficult to cure, and a physician should be consulted as soon as the disease is suspected.

Less common fungus diseases include fungus infections of the fingernails and toenails, in which the nails thicken and break easily. Tinea versicolor, or "liver spots," usually affects the chest and back, and is characterized by a change in color of the affected skin area. In winter the rash is darker than the surrounding skin, but in summer, when there is tanning, the rash is lighter because sunlight is filtered out by the fungus.

Other fungus infections, such as "barber's itch," are also treated by good personal hygiene and medication. Advice and further information on the treatment of fungus infections and other disorders is available at the Employee Health Service.

**SURGEONS INSPECT RESEARCH PROGRAM**

Over a hundred scientists attending the American College of Surgeons sectional meeting last month visited NIH March 21 as part of a tour of local scientific institutions.

The surgeons were eager to inspect the surgical research program at NIH, and toured experimental animal surgery and clinical research surgery areas of several Institutes. Drs. Joseph E. Smadel and Joseph J. Bonim spoke to the group on aspects of the NIH research program.

**SGT. BRUMITT IS GUARD OF THE MONTH**

The March Guard of the Month award has been presented to Sg t. Avery H. Brumitt. In the 11 years Sgt. Brumitt has served on the NIH Guard Force, he has shown proficiency in all aspects of his position and has an outstanding attendance record.

Sgt. Brumitt recently conducted a survey of the amount of valuable property received and distributed by the Guard Force after working hours.

A native of Tennessee, Sgt. Brumitt served with the U. S. Army before coming to NIH.

**DR. KRESHOVER ELECTED TO BOARD**

Dr. Seymour J. Kreshover, Associate Director, NIDR, was elected an associate trustee member of the Board of Medical Education and Research of the University of Pennsylvania, for the academic year 1956-57.

Dr. Kreshover received his degree in dentistry from the University of Pennsylvania in 1938. He came to NIH last year from the Medical College of Virginia.

**MICKESEN Contd.**

worldwide campaign to dramatize the role of nutrition in world health.

The function of the Technical Committee is to prepare suitable program material and literature on several nutrition topics. This material will be distributed widely through all informational media and will be used mainly by local citizens' health committees. This year, many state and city citizens' nutrition councils will also participate.
NICT HOST TO BRAZILIAN DIPLOMATS

Dr. David M. Fried (second from left) points out interesting features of the CC Rehabilitation Department to visit Brazilian diplomat and scientists. Left to right are Mr. Henrique Valle, Dr. Fried, Ambassador Errami de Amaral Peixoto, Dr. Orlando Fontes, and Dr. Alcides Pereira.

INFORMATION STAFFS HOLD SEMINARS

A series of weekly seminars conducted by and for NIH Information Staffs began March 14. These are part of an expanding training program for information personnel.

Designed to improve the quality of public reporting of research and other programs at NIH, the series as planned will consist of three 7-week sessions on such subjects as the press, reports, and health education.

NIH Photographers Convention Committees

Two NIH photographers played active roles at the International Convention of the Photographers' Association of America, held March 24-29. They are Vernon E. Taylor, who served on the membership committee, and Randolph A. Kennedy, a member of the hospitality committee.

R & W NOTES

The fourth program in the R & W Film Society series will feature a group of films spotlighting "Famous Personalities." All films will be shown on Wednesday and Thursday evenings at 8:15 p.m. in the CC Auditorium from April through November, unless otherwise announced.

The first presentation will be "The Magnificent Yankee," the story of Oliver Wendell Holmes, on April 17 and 18. In order of presentation, other films are "The Story of Dr. Ehrlich's Magic Bullet," "Gentleman Jim," "Juarez," "The Court Martial of Billy Mitchell," and "Till the Clouds Roll By." An individual ticket to the series costs $2, a family ticket admitting two persons is $3, and a dependent ticket is $1. For tickets and information contact Bill Gray, ext. 2903.

R & W garden plots will not be available to employees this year because the area which has been used for gardening is needed for parking facilities. The activity, however, may be revived at a future date when space is available.

The Hamsters will hold a business-social meeting on April 15 at 8:00 p.m. in Top Cottage. The spring play will be discussed, as well as the production of "Life at NIH" to be presented this fall.

A wide selection of Easter candy will be on sale at the Film Desk in the CC Lobby early in April. The Film Desk is also expanding its stock to include ballpoint pens and miniature folding binoculars, which will be on sale soon.

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OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY RESTORES HEALTH AND INDEPENDENCE

Weaving increases the range of shoulder motion, develops coordination in upper and lower extremities, and with the addition of weights, increases strength.

Rehabilitating a patient to an active and useful life is the function of occupational therapy. Through medically guided activity, occupational therapy contributes to the patient's recovery and independence by teaching him to help himself.

The Occupational Therapy Service, under the direction of Mary Beach, O.T.R., treats approximately 50 to 60 percent of CC in-patients. The staff includes 11 therapists and is part of the Rehabilitation Department, CC, headed by Dr. David M. Fried, psychiatrist.

Occupational therapy is designed for patients with all types of disabilities, including chronic illnesses, physical disabilities, and emotional disturbances. Patients are referred by their NIH physicians to Dr. Fried. After consultation Dr. Fried prescribes treatment, which is carried out by the occupational therapist. Patients confined to bedrest are treated in the hospital units; those who are ambulant attend one of several clinics specific to their needs.

The activities of occupational therapy are utilized to aid the patients in adjusting to their illnesses and hospital life, and in increasing their physical, mental, and vocational capacities. Unlike many other forms of treatment, occupational therapy considers the whole person in order living. These include feeding, dressing, grooming, writing, and homemaking activities. When indicated by the physician, the therapist may be called upon to devise and adapt special equipment for self-care.

Activities are carefully selected and directed to fit the particular needs of each patient. Thus therapy for a patient with restricted range of motion of the shoulder will be different from therapy for a patient with weakness in the muscles of the hands.

Some of these patients may have to prepare for new vocations. Pre-vocational evaluation is done to determine the patient's aptitudes and interests, taking into account his limitations. These findings are then utilized in planning for the patient's vocational program after his discharge.

Some patients suffer from a general weakness after a long illness. They receive therapy especially designed to build up their work capacity and endurance under a carefully planned work tolerance program. Patients with emotional disturbance participate in activities directed toward restoring normal patterns of behavior.

Thus occupational therapy plays an important role by helping restore the patient to health, and by increasing his usefulness to himself, his family, and his community.