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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE

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PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH

CONSTRUCTION TO START SOON

Construction of this modern building for the Division of Biologics Standards is scheduled to begin this year. The building will be located on the section of the Glenbrook golf course on Service Road West, south of Building 10. A total of $3,500,000 in appropriations is available for construction.

NEW APPOINTMENTS MADE IN DBS, DRS

Dr. Thomas H. Tomlinson, Jr., former Assistant Director, NIAID, assumed his new position of Assistant Director, DBS, on April 15. He was commissioned in PHS in 1933, and first came to NIH in 1937.

During World War II, Dr. Tomlinson was detailed to the Army as staff officer in the China-Burma-India area. Following the war, he was assigned to the School of Tropical Medicine, Puerto Rico. In 1950 he was appointed Assistant Chief of the Laboratory of Tropical Diseases, NMI, and four years later became Assistant Director of NIAID.

Elroy K. Day has been appointed Chief of the Research Facilities Planning Branch of DRS, effective April 1. He transferred to NIH from the Division of Sanitary Engineering Services, BSS.

Donald L. Snow, who has been Acting Chief of the Branch, has returned to his permanent assignment as Chief of the Sanitary Engineering Branch, DRS.

NEW NCI LAB FOR CANCER STUDIES

A laboratory to be operated by NCI is being established at Hagerstown, Maryland, to study the relationship of cancer to soil, water, and other environmental factors.

The laboratory will try to determine whether cancer follows any pattern of geographic distribution. The Health Department of Washington County, in which Hagerstown is located, will cooperate in the study by making data on cancer available.

The laboratory will be housed in a building that will be an addition to the Coffman Health Center. It will be a gift to the county by Mr. and Mrs. Andrew K. Coffman of Hagerstown. Use of the new building was offered to NCI by the Washington County Public Health Association and the Washington County Health Department.

"Geographic factors in relationship to cancer have been under study in different parts of the country," explained Dr. J. R. Heller, Director of NCI. "The new laboratory," he said, "will enable us to continue and expand the studies in an area where necessary records are readily available. By studying population characteristics as well as geologic data and other measurable environmental factors, including background radiation, we hope to isolate common factors and to suggest control measures."

The laboratory building is expected to be ready in about six months, and the NCI study will run for at least five years.

ANNUAL RESEARCH EQUIPMENT EXHIBIT WILL OPEN MAY 13

The Seventh Annual Research Equipment Exhibit and Symposium will be held at NIH May 13-16. One hundred leading manufacturers will display and demonstrate newly developed medical research equipment during the four-day program.

The exhibit, which is the largest of its kind in the country, will feature the latest electronic, optical, radiation, and surgical equipment, and is valued at about one-quarter million dollars.

NIH employees and interested visitors are invited to attend the sessions to be held in Building 22, from 11:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. on May 13 and 16, and from 11:30 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. on May 14 and 15. Individual instruction sessions will be devoted to the demonstration of six new research instruments not yet on the market.

A symposium sponsored by several Washington scientific societies will be held concurrently with the exhibit and will feature qualified speakers on instrumentation methods and techniques.

Tours of the NIH buildings and grounds will be included in the program.

The Psychology of Aging

No. 183 in a Series

Dr. Alfred Weiss measures age changes in control of speech with a device that delays the time between the spoken words and the hearing feedback.

Gerontology, the study of aging, is a fertile and challenging field for scientific exploration. To gain a better understanding of the psychological effects of age changes in the nervous system, intensified research effort is now under way. Part of this research is being conducted by Dr. James Birren and the staff of the Section on Aging, Laboratory of Psychology, NIMH.

These scientists are faced with the problem that accompanies the development of any relatively unexplored area of science in that they must formulate generalizations about the "normal" processes of aging to serve as a basis for later comparative studies. To this end, they have conducted a number of experiments with "normal" persons, young and old.

The extent of experience and practice affects the use of skills as one ages. Verbal skills and "social graces," perhaps because of their great overlearning and redundance, are maintained longer than other skills, and thus may mask changes in mental capacities.

The present emphasis in research on speed and timing of mental and physical reactions is to identify the primary psychological characteristics of aging. Recent results of reaction time experiments show that the older person needs more time to prepare to respond after a stimulus has been perceived. A part of the slow response is thus concerned with a process of getting ready, a rapid process in the young adult.

Early studies on speed and timing in relation to aging began with tests measuring writing speed. Results of these studies showed that the basic factor involved was a slowing within the central nervous system. The current studies have confirmed this.

From the various studies, Dr. Birren has formulated three hypotheses: with advancing age, there is a reduction in the excitability of the central nervous system which is particularly manifest in the "latency of voluntary responses," the slowing of simple movements; the reduction in excitability is more manifest in the processes of "inhibition" than of "facilitation"; and the weakening or lessening of the process of inhibition apparently has a physiological basis, but has manifestation in all behavior where the retention, modification, or extinction of previously learned responses are required.

Some questions current studies may answer are: What requires the additional time in the older nervous system? Is there increased latency in the primary sensory projection area of the brain or in the association area? Is more time required for programming, or mapping, the desired motor responses in the motor cortex or in the spinal cord?

Dr. Birren feels that in gerontological psychology, the data must be interpreted with much caution, because man has a great capacity to compensate for the limitations that occur with advancing age.

Publication Preview

The following manuscripts were received by SRB Editorial Section between March 15 and March 25.

Ajmone-Marsan, C. Electrocorticographic findings.

Ajmone-Marsan, et al. Epileptiform activity in cortical and subcortical structures in the temporal lobe of man.

Baldwin, M. Sensory responses from the human temporal cortex.

Bartlett, R. G., Jr., et al. Restraint, cold, clipping, and core to surface thermal gradients in the rat.

Bartlett, R. G., Jr., et al. Heat balance in restraint hypothermia.

Bartlett, R. G., Jr., et al. Restraint hypothermia: Current status.

Biometrics Branch. NIMH. Patients in mental institutions, 1954.

Bogdanski, D., et al. Pharmacological studies with the serotonin precursor, 5-hydroxytryptophan.

Condit, P. T., et al. Diethyl aminomalonate, a precursor of 4-amino-5-imidazolecarboxamide for E. coli.

Dyson, Hazel R., et al. Genetics in public health nursing.

Emmons, C. W. Histoplasmosis.

Evarts, E. V., et al. Some characteristics of cortical recruiting responses in unanesthetized cats.

Eyles, D. E., et al. An evaluation of the effect of sulfones on experimental toxoplasmosis in the mouse.

Greenstein, J. P., et al. Studies on the metabolism of amino acids and related compounds in vivo. VII. Ammonia toxicity in partially hepatectomized rats and the effect of L-arginine.

Gutter, F. J., et al. Sedimentation behavior of bovine plasma albumin as a function of urea concentration and pH.

Heston, W. E., et al. Development of tumors in fetal and adult lung transplants.

Joralemon, J., et al. Behavior of reserpinized chimpanzees.

Kety, S. S. The cerebral circulation in man.

Shy, G. M., et al. Activity of interneurons of neocortex.

Smith, R. R. Some causes of failure of definitive surgery in primary operable cancers.

Terry, L. L., et al. Clinical pathological conference

Wyckoff, R. W. G. Electron Microscopy.

Wyngaarden, J. B. Overproduction of uric acid as the cause of the hyperuricemia of primary gout.

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NIH Spotlight

Lovance L. Stewart

Twenty-five years of experience as supervisor of the NIH Mail Room have made Lovance L. Stewart an "almost indispensable" man at NIH. The very thought of handling over 150 million pieces of mail a year would make anyone's head spin, but Mr. Stewart calmly and casually performed this gigantic task last year. It takes tact, organization, and good hard work to keep everybody happy, and to carry out the old and well-known slogan "the mail must go through."

An old hand in the mail room, Mr. Stewart can draw on a record of experience that goes back to his job as a messenger at NIH when it was located at 25th and E Streets. When NIH moved to Bethesda in 1938, he started the mail service with only a messenger and a clerk. Today 32 people and four mail substations are needed to take care of the tremendous amount of mail and service required by NIH.

The nicest thing about his job, Mr. Stewart jokes, is that it never gets dull. He can spin dozens of tales about the old days at NIH, or amusing anecdotes about the mail room. Of the dozens of calls he receives each day, he recalls the employee who wanted to know the price of a three-cent stamp, or another who asked what time the 12 o'clock mail truck left.

But most people have no idea of the variety of services performed by the mail room, Mr. Stewart declares. Receiving and dispatching telegrams, registered mail, and laboratory specimens, and keeping files on all of them, is part of the job. Six mail trucks must be scheduled for daily trips, and library books, Congressional mail, and passengers must all be faithfully delivered. This responsibility would soon fluster almost anybody, but to Mr. Stewart it is all part of the day's routine.

Mr. Stewart's slight southern drawl and imperturbable temperament stem back to his boyhood on the Mississippi Gulf Coast.

During the war, Mr. Stewart enlisted in the Navy, and spent two years in Florida as a motor-machinist. He now enjoys trips to the Gulf for fishing, one of his favorite pastimes. Gardening and home decoration and repair also rate high as hobbies after his busy day in the mail room.

He Now Has a Name

Ben "goofs" Again

The name is Ben Goofin.

The contest turned up many appropriate names, so it was difficult to make a selection. Pearl Giles, secretary in the Scientific Reports Branch, DRS, dreamed up the name. For her contribution, R & W presented her with two tickets to the Hamster production, Tuesday, April 2.

In addition, Pearl will have a special delight watching our little character "goof" across the RECORD pages as he stumbles into hazardous situations of one kind or another. He is bound to teach us a lesson or two. Look for him.

The RECORD appreciates the interest shown in the contest and thanks all those who participated.

"COSTEP" PROGRAM UNDER WAY AT NIH

Students from accredited professional schools will be employed at NIH this summer under a PHS program known as COSTEP.

COSTEP stands for the Commissioned Officer Student Training and Extern Program. The aim of COSTEP is to interest promising young people in scientific research careers and to provide scientists with competent help during the summer months.

This year about 70 students with advanced medical, dental, engineering, and scientific training will be appointed to temporary training duty positions at NIH. They will be commissioned as reserve officers to serve on active duty with PHS for not more than four months.

Applications have been received from students attending professional schools all over the country. Lists of qualified candidates are prepared by a COSTEP Committee, and scientists who wish to employ students make their selections from these lists.

COSTEP is designed to aid in filling expanding PHS needs for career officers. It gives participating students an opportunity to further their professional knowledge and experience, and to increase their knowledge of government health agencies.

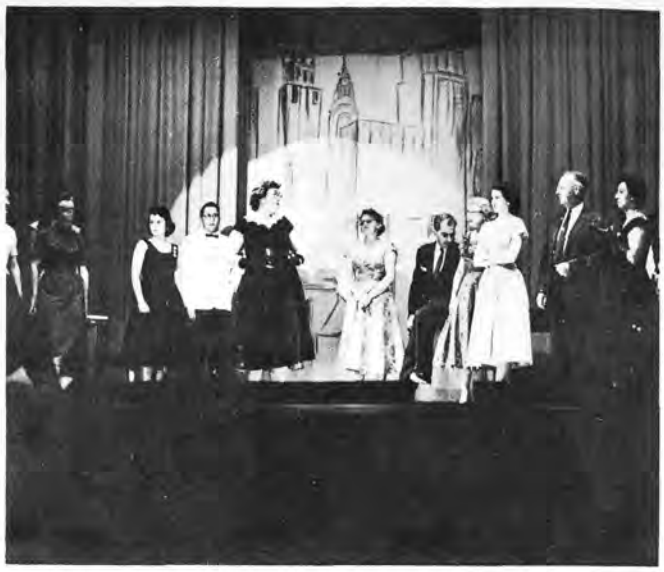
This type of employment program has been offered by PHS for about ten years, and has been an effective means of recruiting professional personnel for careers in the PHS Commissioned Corps.

In past years a large percentage of the accepted students have been employed at NIH. Orientation sessions and scientific seminars are held to acquaint them with NIH research activities and opportunities. Positions are carefully filled to benefit both student and scientist.

The COSTEP Program at NIH is administered by the Clinical and Professional Education Branch, CC. Scientists interested in employing students are urged to make their selection as soon as possible. Details of the program and information about available candidates may be obtained from Joseph A. Staton, Building 10, Room 13N-226, Extension 3381.

HAMSTERS AND CHORUS PRESENT A PROGRAM OF SOUND AND FURY

In a scene from "The Gamblers," Pete Boyle, Norman Fitz, Roy Perry, and Ozzie Grabiner prepare to toast their next victim, Joel Vernick (second from right).



The choral group extols the merits of New York to soloist Carol Long (center) during the production of "Manhattan Tower."

QUESTION + ANSWER = HEALTH

Many of us have questions concerning health, but frequently we let them go unanswered. Many doubts, fears, and potentially serious problems may be averted if we have ready access to complete and up-to-date health information.

The Employee Health Service, by emphasizing a positive approach to health through preventive medicine, is in a unique position to provide interested employees with health advice and guidance. A single visit to EHS may solve the problem; or as happens on many occasions, the cooperative efforts of an employee's personal physician or other community resource may be utilized.

Since health problems command so much reader interest, the RECORD will assist EHS by carrying answers to your questions related to health. Questions of wide interest among NIH employees will be answered in the RECORD, and those not used will be answered personally by EHS.

In this way, we can not only solve many of our health problems, but we can keep abreast of medical progress as it applies to our individual health needs.

If you have any questions relating to health that you feel could appropriately be answered in the RECORD, please send them to Dr. John M. Lynch, Building 10, Room B2-A-13.

DON'T FORGET...

Your blood is needed for the "NIH Panel of Typed Blood Donors." Send in your application now. If you haven't received one, call ext. 2597.

DRG Branch Moves

The Research Fellowships Branch, DRG, which includes the Visiting Scientist Program, has moved to the Colemont Building, 8715 Colesville Road, Silver Spring, Maryland. Their new phone number is JUniper 5-1694, or Code 692.

PRESS ASSOCIATION MEETS HERE

Montgomery County Press Association president Kathy Leary receives a gavel from retiring president Cy O'Brien as Dan Rice, DRS, looks on. The Association meeting at NIH April 5 featured NIH speakers and a tour of the Clinical Center.

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