STAPH INFECTION IS TOPIC OF CONFERENCE

Staphylococcus infection in the hospital was the topic of a combined clinical staff conference, March 12, in the Clinical Center. The evening conference was attended by approximately 200 Washington area physicians in addition to NIH personnel.

Dr. John P. Utz, NIAID, reported that there is overwhelming evidence that staphylococci have the faculty of becoming resistant to almost every antibiotic originally effective against them.

Recent studies in the Clinical Pathology Department, reported by Dr. H. H. Marsh, CC, have made it possible to prepare and store lyophilized staphylococcal bacteriophage, which attacks staphylococcus organisms. The phage will soon be commercially available, and it is hoped that now small laboratories will be able to define the infection, trace its route, and provide a means for control.

The conference also included reports from Drs. H. Taylor Caswell, Temple University, Ivan L. Bennett, Johns Hopkins Hospital, and, from NIH, George Z. Williams, CC, Harry G. Steinman, NIAID, and Emil Frei, NCI.

NCI SECTION CHIEF WINS 1959 ROCKEFELLER PRIZE

Marvin A. Schneiderman, head of the Therapeutic Trial Section, Cancer Chemotherapy National Service Center, received a Rockefeller Public Service Award on March 16. He was one of 11 Federal service career employees selected by Princeton University to receive the annual prize.

Administered under a grant from John D. Rockefeller III, the awards (See Rockefellers, Page 4)
To diagnose congenital or acquired heart abnormalities without recourse to surgery requires that the heart chambers be entered directly by needles or by hollow tubes. The chambers on the left side of the heart are the most difficult to study. This is the high-pressure side, where oxygen-laden blood returns from the lungs into the left atrium and is pumped by the left ventricle directly to the body. It is here that the most serious damage to heart valves occurs from rheumatic fever and other heart diseases.

To attempt to pass a catheter through an artery into the left heart, the physician would force the tube head-on into a reverse valve. Present techniques employ needle puncture through the chest wall, or by means of a bronchoscope, through the left bronchus into the adjacent left atrium of the heart.

A new method developed by Dr. John Ross of NIH's Surgery Branch, called transeptal left heart catheterization, utilizes the standard right heart catheterization approach. It permits the physician to study the right and left sides of the heart at the same time, and is safer and relatively comfortable for the patient.

The patient is given mild sedation and placed on a fluoroscopy table. A cardiac catheter about 1/8" in diameter is then introduced through a vein in his right thigh. Since the catheter is visible on the fluoroscope, its tip may be guided accurately into the right atrium, the receiving chamber of the right side of the heart. This part of the procedure ordinarily takes only a few seconds.

At this point, a specially constructed needle, curved at its pointed end and 15 mm. longer than the catheter, is inserted into the catheter. The catheter tip is directed into position against the septum, or wall, separating the right and left atria, and the needle is pushed forward, thereby puncturing the septum.

Once the needle has entered the left atrium, pressure is measured in that chamber, and a small plastic catheter may be passed through the needle and across the mitral valve into the left ventricle, where pressure is again measured. These measurements, results of the pressure pulses transmitted through the needle, are observed on an oscilloscope screen and recorded. The tracings obtained indicate whether or not the mitral valve is functioning properly.

It is also possible to detect abnormal openings between the right and left sides of the heart and to determine their exact location by injecting a colored dye or a radioactive material into the left heart chambers and charting its path through the heart with special recording instruments.

Removal of the catheter and needle leaves a small puncture in the septum which closes within a short time.

After perfecting this technique on a series of dogs without complication, Dr. Ross and his associates in the Heart Institute have applied the method successfully to 16 patients. No ill effects have been observed. Dr. Ross plans to extend the technique to include some of the other heart diseases.

(See Heart, Page 4)
NIAMD
Bianchi, C. P., and Shanes, A. M. The effect of the ionic milieu on the emergence of Ca⁴⁺ from tendon and from sartorius muscle.
Cotrin, L. M. Oxalacetic decarboxylase from rat liver mitochondria.
Fox, M. R. S., and Mickelsen, O. Salts mixtures for purified-type diets. II. Effect of salts on the Maillard browning reaction.
Lemmer, E. M. II, and Bloch, K. J. "Rheumatoid" serological reactions in experimental animals. II. Bentonite flocculation test in rats with experimental arthritis.
Merritt, A. D., and Temkin, G. M. Reversible oxidation of cyclic secondary alcohols by liver alcohol dehydrogenase.
Saroff, H. A. On the Acyl shift in protein reactions.
Saroff, H. A., and Evans, R. L. The conversion of the amino group of amino acids and proteins of the non-polar nitroguanidino group.
Shanes, A. M., and Bianchi, C. P. The release of radiocalcium by stimulated sartorius muscles of the frog.
Whedon, G. D. Renewed interest in human energy metabolism research.

NIDR
Hampp, E. G., and Nevin, T. A. The substitution of known compounds for ascitic fluid in the cultivation of Borrelia vincentii.

NIMH
Axelrod, J. The role of monoamine oxidase in the metabolism of catecholamines.
Jacobson, S., and Foerger, C. Neutralization, a tool for the teacher of disturbed children.
Labrosse, E. H. Metabolism of dl-epinephrine-7-H-3-O-2H3O2H.
Mishkin, M.; Gunkel, R. D.; and Rosvold, H. E. Contact occluders: A method for restricting vision in animals.
Sokoloff, L. Quantitative measurement of cerebral blood flow in man.
Szara, S., and Axelrod, J. 3-Hydroxylation and N-demethylation of N,N-dimethyltryptamine.

NINDB
Albers, R. W., and Brody, R. D. The distribution of glutamic decarboxylase in the nervous system of the rhesus monkey.
Engel, W. K.; Klatzo, I.; and Kurzban, L. T. An inherited disease similar to amyotrophic lateral sclerosis with a pattern of posterior column involvement. An intermediate form?

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R & W NOTES
The Hamsters are choosing between "Picnic" and "Detective Story" for their spring production June 18 and 19. Since both plays call for a large number of parts, employees interested in trying out for roles may come to the CC Auditorium April 1, between 7:30 and 9:30 p.m., and April 2, 12 noon to 1 p.m. and 7:30 to 9:30 p.m.
"The Petrified Forest," second movie of the 1959 Film Series, will be shown April 9 and 10 at 8:15 p.m. in the CC Auditorium. Some tickets for the series are still available.
Dates to remember in the future are May 22, the Spring Program of the NIH Chorus, and May 29, a piano concert by Dr. Kenneth Wolf, NINDB.

From girlhood in Guam to Princess in Washington's Cherry Blossom Festival is only a part of the story of Marilyn WonPat.
Marilyn, a nurse in CC's Allergy and Infectious Diseases Nursing Service, was chosen last month by the Guam Society of Washington to represent the Territory in the annual Cherry Blossom Festival in April. And after seeing Marilyn, it's easy to understand why she was selected.
"Nothing like this has ever happened to me before," she says. But she does admit that twice in the past she had been asked to be a candidate for Queen of the Guam Liberation Day celebrations. Unfortunately for the program, Marilyn was not able to participate either time.
Marilyn left Guam in 1949 to attend high school and college in Colorado. She graduated with a B.S. in nursing from Loretto Heights College, in Denver, in 1956. She worked as a general duty nurse in medical and surgical wards at St. Anthony's Hospital there before coming to NIH last April.
Of her childhood in the Guam towns of Sumay, Agat, and Agana, Marilyn vividly recalls two important historical times: the hardships and tortures of the Japanese occupation of her home island, and the peoples' happiness and relief at the American liberation in 1944. "The liberation," she says, "is something I will remember as long as I live."
Marilyn's choice of a nursing career, in the face of some objections and attempts at discouragement by friends and relatives, was prompted by her realization of the island's need for nurses.
Her chief aim, she says, is to return to Guam some day soon, perhaps to the Naval Hospital there, where she hopes her nursing skills will be of help to the people of her home island.

NIH Spotlight
Marilyn A. WonPat

What's wrong with him? He should know we always turn left here.

Give turn signals at intersections.
EXHIBIT SHOWS USED FURNITURE 'BEFORE AND AFTER' RECONDITIONING

Dolores Calcutt (left) and Ruth Towner (right), both of DBO, show off the reconditioned office furniture exhibit prepared by the Supply Management Branch, DBO. The display demonstrates what can be done to make old office furniture look like new, and features two model offices (shown above) filled with equipment before and after reconditioning. The exhibit is open to all NIH employees from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., April 1 through April 30 in Room G-110, Building 12.

April Groundbreaking
Set For NIDR Building

A contract for the construction of the new NIDR building, to be located between the CC and the new DBS building, was awarded March 9. Groundbreaking for the new $3.7 million structure is scheduled for April.

Plans call for complete air-conditioning of the new building. It will have five floors and two basements, and is expected to provide 42,000 square feet of laboratory space to accommodate 190 NIDR researchers.

HEART Contd.

newer diagnostic procedures such as selective angiography and radioactive gas studies for the localization of congenital heart defects.

CHILD Contd.

NINDB, Dr. Emil Frei, NCI, Dr. Robert Bloodwell, NHI, Drs. Fritz Redl, Marian S. Yarrow, Nancy Bayley, Earl S. Shafer, Richard Q. Bell, Jacob L. Gewirtz, Harriet L. Rheimogol, and David Shakow, NIMH.

Later sessions were devoted to such topics as ecological studies, infancy and growth, cross cultural studies, personality and emotions, social role perceptions, development and functioning of moral standards, learning and cognition, early exogenous factors in infant development, thinking, parental attitudes and child rearing practices, and the next twenty-five years in child development research.

AWARDS Contd.

and to Dolores Kenton, Nancy Murray, Elli Malta, and Leo Hart in the Microbiology Service.

In the department's Clinical Chemistry Section, Jean Biggs, Julia Pastewka, Mary Catherine Gorman, Dorothy Collins, Thomas Rayford, William Bowie, Sylvia Bunting, Eugenia Gregory, Miriam Bowman, and Eunice Gowdy received cash awards for work performance.

Group awards for job performance in the Hematology Section went to Rowena Bayes, Eleanor Jakobek, Olga Jurevitch, Mary Cummings, Paul Rhodes, Joan Ruberg, Minna Feld, Lois Spencer, Elsie Stampe, Theresa Bernard, Anna Weiss, and Clara Barber.

At another ceremony, a group award of $400 was given to four employees of the Communications Section, DBO, for superior performance. Recipients were James G. Hawkes, George Hoff, John W. Peters, and Helen A. Wilson.

Miss Cramer, Miss Wilcox Retire with Long Service

Dorothy M. Cramer, associate librarian, Scientific Reports Branch, DRS, retired February 28 after 23 years' government service. She has returned to her home in Seattle, Wash.

Miss Cramer joined the staff of the PHS Library in 1936 and came to NIH in 1942 as assistant librarian. She became associate librarian here three years ago. At one time, she initiated a course in library instruction for PHS reference personnel.

A contributor to various professional journals, Miss Cramer has also compiled bibliographies of selected medical subjects for Government-wide distribution.

Aimee Wilcox, protozoologist in the Laboratory of Parasite Chemotherapy, NIAID, Columbia, S. C., retires this month after 30 years of Government service.

Long recognized as a leading investigator in the field of malaria, Miss Wilcox joined PHS in 1928 in the Office of Malaria Investigation, Memphis.

While serving at the former Hygienic Laboratory, Washington, she initiated a program of technician training in malaria parasitology for state health departments throughout the country.

She assisted in research resulting in the improvement of staining procedures of malaria parasites, in studies on various phases of human and avian malaria, and on viral studies in rabbits.