

Starlings Culprits In Histoplasmosis Fungus Discovery

Increasing interest in histoplasmosis, a frequently serious lung disease, has been reflected recently in reports of new findings relating to both its cause and treatment.

On July 14 the Public Health Service released information, widely used by the press, which reported finding of the disease-causing fungus for the first time in Washington, D. C.

The new findings, by Dr. Chester W. Emmons, Chief of the Medical Mycology Section of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, revealed that the fungus, *Histoplasma capsulatum*, was isolated in soil contaminated by starlings, which was taken from beneath sycamore trees in two of Washington's public parks—at Pennsylvania Avenue between 7th and 8th Streets, N.W., and at Massachusetts Avenue and E Street, N. E.

Previously many investigators have believed that the fungus grew
(See HISTOPLASMOSES, Page 4)

Equipment Exhibit Expected to Draw More Than 6,000

More than 6,000 medical scientists, technicians, and others interested in the latest developments of research instrumentation are expected to attend the Eleventh Annual Instrument Symposium and Research Equipment Exhibit, to be held here early in October.

Attendance is expected to equal or exceed last year's record total of 6,237, which included visitors from 21 foreign countries as well as all parts of the U.S.

The symposium sessions will be conducted in the CC auditorium October 9-12.

The exhibit, to be held October 10-13 in Building 22, will be sponsored by 121 of the nation's leading manufacturers of scientific apparatus. They will display a wide array of the latest electronic, mechanical, and optical instruments for laboratory and clinical research.

The exhibit will be open daily from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., and on October 11 will remain open until 9 p.m.

In addition, six exhibiting firms
(See EXHIBIT, Page 3)

Kennedy Asks Two New Institutes In Proposed PHS Act Amendment

Legislation to convert the Division of General Medical Sciences to Institute status and to establish a new National Institute of Child Health and Human Development was introduced in Congress July 18 at the request of President Kennedy.

The bill, an amendment to the Public Health Service Act, was sponsored in the Senate by Senators Lister Hill of Alabama and Robert S. Kerr of Oklahoma.

Calls Action Timely

In requesting the legislation the President said, "It is now both appropriate and timely to elevate two additional areas of medical research activity to the level of Institutes. In this way, the kind of research effort that is needed to improve the health of children and to stimulate basic studies in the biological sciences will be assured."

In his letter to the Congress, the President said the establishment of the new NICHD, which he previously recommended in his Health Message to Congress on February 9, "will include a Center for Research in Child Health, as well as other activities not now covered by the existing Institutes."

Proposed Law Cited

As proposed by the President, the law would read:

"The Surgeon General is authorized, with the approval of the Secretary, to establish in the Public Health Service an institute for the conduct and support of research and training relating to child health and human development, including research and training in the special health problems of children or aged persons and in the basic sciences relating to the processes of human growth and development."

"It is my belief," the President said, "that this concentration of attention in this field will help us discover some of the secrets of the aging process. In time, it will help us live happier and more useful lives."

As currently planned, the new Institute will provide a central focus and coordinating point in the
(See INSTITUTES, Page 4)



Betty Hennigan of the Division of Biologics Standards stands beside a microcomparator in the DBS Laboratory of Biophysics and Biochemistry. This apparatus is used for measuring the size of virus particles of electromicroscope photographs. Similar research apparatus will be exhibited during the 11th Annual Symposium and Research Equipment Exhibit here.

NIH Is One of Government Exhibitors In the County's Science-Industry Fair

NIH was one of three-score exhibitors at the First Annual Montgomery County Science and Industry Showcase, held in the Silver Spring Armory Thursday through Saturday of last week.

The NIH exhibit, seen by approximately 10,000 persons during the three-day show, illustrated the contributions of NIH to the community in terms of people who work, live, and spend their money there.

Sponsored by the Silver Spring Board of Trade and the Montgomery County Government, the Showcase demonstrated the research and development contributions that Montgomery County's private and governmental organizations are making to national defense and the progress of mankind.

A feature of the NIH display which generated particular interest was a germfree animal tank complete with mice, from the National Institute of Dental Research. A panel of photographs illustrating germfree research, and a fact sheet describing germfree research advances were included in this part of the display.

Other exhibitors included Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Lab, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, the Naval Ordnance Lab, Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, Naval Medical Center, Army Map Service, Montgomery County Revenue Authority, and the Atomic Energy Commission.

Army Band to Present Concert Here Thursday

The U. S. Army Band, conducted by Maj. Samuel Loboda, will present the second in a series of outdoor concerts here on Thursday, August 3, at 7:30 p.m.

Planned for CC patients, NIH employees, and their families and friends, the concert will be held on the first floor terrace of the Clinical Center, just east of the auditorium. In case of rain, the auditorium will be used.

Arrangements for the concerts have been made by Arnold Sperling, CC Patient Activities Section Chief, in cooperation with James G. Dunton, Director of the Special Activities Division, Office of the Secretary of Defense.

The third concert in the series will be given by the U. S. Marine Band on August 31.

the Record

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Editor.....E. K. Stabier
Associate Editor.....Elizabeth D. Eberhard

Staff Correspondents

Norma Golumbic, NCI; Barbara Becker, NHI; Kathryn Mains, NIAID; Lillie Bailey, NIAMD; Marie Norris, NIDR; William Gray, NIMH; Pat MacPherson, NINDB; Elsie Fahrenthold, CC; Mary Henley, DBS; Corinne Graves, DGMS; Shirley Barth, DRG; Jean Torgerson, DRS.

Boyd Stephenson Is Head of CO Section In Personnel Branch

Appointment of Boyd W. Stephenson, a Pharmacist Director in the PHS Commissioned Officers Corps, to the newly created position of Head, Commissioned Officers Section, Personnel Management Branch, OAM, has been announced by John M. Sangster, Branch Chief.

Prior to his NIH appointment Mr. Stephenson was the Deputy Chief of the Career Development and Staffing Branch in the Division of Commissioned Officer Personnel, Office of the Surgeon General, PHS.



Mr. Stephenson

Service Is Broadened

In his new assignment Mr. Stephenson will provide staff-level advice in such areas as career development, recruitment, and placement. According to Mr. Sangster, this will broaden the scope of NIH personnel services and bring about the development of a local program for Commissioned Officers within the PHS framework.

A member of the Corps since 1947, Mr. Stephenson has served as Chief Pharmacist, U.S. Marine Hospital, San Francisco, Calif.; Recruitment Officer, Division of Commissioned Officers, PHS, Washington, D. C.; and Chief of Pharmaceutical Service, USPHS Hospital, Lexington, Ky.

Mr. Stephenson is a native of Lebanon Junction, Ky., and received a B.S. degree in Pharmacy from the University of Kentucky.

A Reuters dispatch reports that while Tanganyika's population has increased 100 percent in the last decade, the incidence of tuberculosis has risen 500 percent.

Ellen Walsh Successor To Dr. D. E. O'Keefe As Social Service Head

Ellen J. Walsh, Assistant Chief of the Social Service Department, CC, was appointed Chief of the Department effective July 1.

Miss Walsh succeeds Dr. Daniel E. O'Keefe, who retired from the PHS Commissioned Corps June 30 to become Director of the Division of Clinical Social Work, School of Medicine, Stanford University.

Before coming to NIH in 1953 as Dr. O'Keefe's assistant, Miss Walsh was an instructor at the Fordham University School of Social Work. She was also a staff supervisor at St. Vincent's Hospital in New York City. Previously she had served as a caseworker at St. Vincent's and at the University Hospitals of Cleveland, Ohio.

Teaches at C. U.

An Ohio native, Miss Walsh was graduated *cum laude* from Seton Hill College, Greensburg, Pa., in 1940 and received her M.A. degree in social service from Catholic University in 1942. She is currently preparing her thesis for a doctorate from Columbia University.

Miss Walsh is on the teaching staff of Catholic University and has been a workshop leader of the American National Red Cross Training Center for Beginning Social Workers for three years. In addition, she has served as a visiting lecturer at Columbia University, and is the author of a number of contributions to professional journals.

Miss Walsh is succeeded as Assistant Chief by Robert J. Savard, Chief of the Department's Neurology Social Service Section for the past six years.



Miss Walsh

Patients' Library Is Popular, And the Reasons Are Many

By Joan Alper
Summer Employee

A quiet, bright, but none-too-large room on the fifth floor of the Clinical Center is a world apart from its medical surroundings. Margaret Hannigan, the pretty, gray-haired Librarian, likes to keep the Patients' Library that way.

This ex-Marine Corps major, who holds a B.S. and an L.S. degree from St. Catherine's College in Minnesota, arrived at NIH seven years ago after working extensively in Veterans Administration libraries.

She found a few Gray Lady volunteers and a small collection of books in the Library which today houses 4,000 hard-cover volumes, 54 periodicals, and numerous special services designed for hospital patients.

In her work Miss Hannigan follows a simple philosophy: "Make the patients happy." The fact that virtually all Clinical Center patients use the Library's facilities proves the success of her efforts.

Discovers Reading Tastes

Miss Hannigan receives information on all patients at the time of admission, since it is frequently helpful in discovering their reading tastes.

Many borrowers, she says, read more than they did before coming here, and others have been introduced to the pleasures of reading.

Fiction, biography, novels of inspiration, mysteries, and poetry are in demand, and the Bible is a frequent request. Talking books, filmed books, and sight-saving books, along with magnifying and prism glasses and automatic page-turners are among the Library's popular reading aids.

Miss Hannigan regrets that she cannot encourage gifts of books to the Library—its space is too limited. However, paperback books are welcome.

The Library makes frequent use

Dr. Hirano Wins Award For Outstanding Paper

Dr. Asao Hirano, a Visiting Scientist in the Epidemiology Branch, NINDB, received \$250 and a certificate for the outstanding paper presented at the annual meeting of the American Association of Neuropathologists in Atlantic City, June 9.

Co-authors of the paper, "Parkinsonism-Dementia Complex, An Endemic Disease on the Island of Guam. Pathological Features," are Drs. Leonard T. Kurland, Chief of the Epidemiology Branch, and Nathan Malamud, University of California.

Born in Japan in 1926, Dr. Hirano graduated from the Medical School of Kyoto University in 1952 and was an NINDB trainee from April 1957 to June 1959.



Miss Margaret Hannigan

of the Montgomery County Public Library System and the Library of Congress to supplement its collection. Scientific literature is furnished by the NIH Library.

The Patients' Library's book cart is a frequent and welcome sight in the wards. The Library also sponsors a reading group for mental patients, which Miss Hannigan has found a rewarding experience. She has written enthusiastically on the subject of bibliotherapy, and doctors in the Clinical Center find that articles on the usefulness of books as a therapy are readily supplied by her.

Work Is Rewarding

In her spare time, Miss Hannigan reads to children in the Clinical Center.

Her work has its rewarding moments. After one Christmas vacation, she returned to the Clinical Center to find a patient, who had been depressed and uncooperative previously, making an enthusiastic attempt to master a new artificial limb. Nurses traced the new attitude to the time when Miss Hannigan had given the patient a book by an author who had undergone the same experience.

The Library is staffed also by Eleanor Hines, a Librarian; Mary Renfro, a Librarian Assistant, and two patients who are volunteer helpers. These workers are assisted on a part-time basis by the Red Cross Gray Ladies.

"The popularity of the Patients' Library," Miss Hannigan insists, "is due very much to this wonderful staff."

Health Ministers From W. Africa Confer at NIH

In a recent visit to NIH, the Ministers of Health of four West African nations met with Dr. Shannon, visited NIH labs, and discussed their countries' disease problems with NIH scientists.

In this country on a tour of American health facilities, the Ministers are being oriented to our public health methods, clinical care of patients, American medical education, and administrative practices in the health field.

With first-hand knowledge of the American public health scene and through personal contact with public health leaders in the United States, the four Ministers hope to establish a solid foundation for future public health programs in their own countries.

Tour Jointly Sponsored

The tour is sponsored by the International Cooperation Administration, the Department of State, and the Public Health Service.

The four Ministers of Health are Dr. Rene Deroux of Dahomey, Dr. Amadou Kone of the Ivory Coast, Dr. Harou Kouka of Niger, and Dr. Paul Lambin of Upper Volta.

They were accompanied to NIH by Dr. Brooks Ryder and Leonard Board, Regional Public Health Advisors in West Africa; Dr. Hilders Poindexter, Public Health Service officer who has served in Africa; and Dr. Jacques Antoine, interpreter.

The Ministers were greeted at



Two of the four Ministers of Health from West African nations who visited NIH recently chat with Boisfeuillet Jones, Special Assistant to the Secretary for Medical Affairs, DHEW, prior to a dinner given in the Ministers' honor by Surgeon General Terry at the Statler-Hilton Hotel. Left to right: Dr. Paul Lambin of Upper Volta, Mr. Jones, and Dr. Rene Deroux of Dahomey.—Photo by Bob Pumphrey.

the Clinical Center on Tuesday morning July 11, by Dr. Robert M. Farrier, Acting Director of the Clinical Center. They viewed the film, "The National Institutes of Health," in the main auditorium.

Later in the morning they were briefed by Dr. Shannon and members of his staff on NIH activities, then had lunch in his office.

The remainder of the day was spent in informal discussions with Dr. Roderick Murray, Director of the Division of Biologics Standards and his staff, and with Dr. Dorland J. Davis, Acting Director, National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases.

Interested in Measles

With the DBS staff, the Ministers reviewed the course of natural measles in this country and the symptoms induced in susceptible children by the current experimental live attenuated measles vaccine (Enders' attenuated Edmonston strain).

They also reviewed new information "concerning the essential lack of significant disease induced by the attenuated vaccine in children who also receive immune gamma globulin, although solid immunity to natural infection is induced by the procedure."

Dr. Davis and the NIAID staff discussed with the visitors special problems in tropical medicine, especially malaria, trypanosomiasis, onchocerciasis, and bilharziasis.

Tuesday night the Ministers were honor guests at a dinner given by Surgeon General Luther L. Terry of the Public Health Service at the Statler-Hilton Hotel.

grapher will be Dr. Alton Meister, Chairman, Department of Biochemistry, Tufts University School of Medicine.

Chairmen of other discussion sessions include Dr. Ulrich Weiss and Dr. Edwin D. Becker, NIAMD; Gerald S. Cohen, DRS; Dr. Saul Gordon, Fairleigh Dickinson University; and Dr. Isidore Adler, U.S. Geological Survey.

Scientific sessions will continue

NHI Scientist to Speak To NCI Study Group

Dr. Harold F. Dorn, Chief of the Biometrics Research Branch, NHI, will be guest speaker at next Thursday's meeting of the Technicians Study Group, NCI, at 12:30 p.m. in Wilson Hall.

Dr. Dorn will discuss cancer of the bladder, illustrating his talk with pictures taken recently in Egypt where he participated in a symposium on carcinoma of the bladder, sponsored by the International Union Against Cancer.

Guest speaker at the September 7 meeting of the Technicians Study Group will be Dr. Joseph E. Smadel, Chief, Laboratory of Virology and Rickettsiology of the Division of Biologics Standards.

John P. Folan, Director of the Study Group, urges all regular and associate members, as well as any other interested persons on Institute technical staffs, to attend both the August and September meetings.

Robinson Is NIAMD I. O.

John W. Robinson was appointed to the position of Information Officer of NIAMD on July 13. Mr. Robinson, who joined the NIAMD staff in February 1958, has served as NIAMD's Acting Information Officer for the past year. He was formerly associated with a local science news service.

with two meetings daily, at 2 and 8 p.m. The final session will be at 2 p.m., October 12.

Sponsors of the symposium are the American Association of Clinical Chemists, American Chemical Society, Instrument Society of America, Society of Applied Spectroscopy, Society of American Bacteriologists, and Society for Experimental Biology and Medicine.

James B. Davis, Chief, Supply Management Branch, OAM, represents NIH as Executive Secretary of the Symposium Planning Committee and as Exhibit Manager.

Officials Explore Collaboration in Ghana Research

Dr. Kenneth M. Endicott, Director of the National Cancer Institute, and Dr. Martin M. Cummings, Chief of the NIH Office of International Research, were scheduled to return July 28 after a two week visit to Accra, Ghana, to explore the possibilities of setting up collaborative medical research projects between the United States and that African nation.

Their trip was made at the invitation of Dr. Joseph Gillman, Director of the National Institute of Health and Medical Research of Ghana, who visited NIH in May.

Dr. Gillman has indicated an interest in collaborative studies of the pattern of malignant disease among people of Ghana. According to an NCI release, such investigations could help to explain why some forms of cancer that are extremely rare in the United States assume almost epidemic proportions in Africa.

Dr. Gillman has also pointed to opportunities for the use of primates available in Ghana in a variety of health research projects, including studies of the role of viruses in the causation of animal and human cancer.

He said that his country is willing to provide research facilities and living quarters for use by NIH scientists who might be assigned to projects in Ghana.

Ambassador to U. N. From Nepal Tours CC

The Ambassador to the U. N. from Nepal, Matrika Prasad Koirala, accompanied by his wife and teen-age daughters, Kavita and Savita, visited the Clinical Center on July 17. Dr. Clifton K. Himmelsbach, CC Associate Director, escorted the group on a tour of the Center, including the metabolic kitchens, nutrition laboratories, and patient facilities.

The Ambassador is deeply interested in scientific developments in his country, and his 16-year-old daughter, Savita, is a science student in Nepal.

Two Bethesda friends of the Ambassador and his family were also in the party.

Stone House Listing Changed

The telephone listing for Stone House in the May NIH Telephone and Service Directory (Page XI, Classified Index), has been changed, according to an announcement by James G. Hawkes, Chief of the Communications Section, Office Services Branch, OAM. The new number is Ext. 5881.

EXHIBIT

(Continued from Page 1)

will hold special instrumentation clinics October 11-13 at 9:30 and 10:15 a.m.

At these clinics, manufacturers' representatives will demonstrate the research applicability of their newest equipment, including an electronic spectrophotometer, refrigerated cell fractionator, atomic absorption analyzer, electronic hematocrit, and protein monitor.

The symposium, which will be opened at 8 p.m., October 9, by Dr. James A. Shannon, NIH Director, will feature nationally known scientists who will present papers on subjects of current research interest in their specialties.

These will include interpretation of infrared spectra, thermogravimetric analysis, electron probe analysis, electron magnetic resonance, and the application of physiological instrumentation to clinical problems.

Presiding officer at the opening session on applied gas chromatography

HISTOPLASMOSIS

(Continued from Page 1)

only in the soil of rural areas and small towns.

Past reports by Dr. Emmons and other scientists have indicated that droppings from some species of wildbirds as well as from domestic fowl create a soil condition highly suitable for the growth of the fungus.

Man is infected by inhaling contaminated soil or dust. The severity of the disease varies from a symptomless and apparently harmless condition to an incapacitating lung lesion. Or it may take a fatal form characterized by chronic lesions of various internal organs. There is no ideal drug treatment for the disease.

Dr. Emmons was searching primarily for the agent of another serious fungal disease, cryptococcosis, which has been isolated many times from Washington areas contaminated by pigeon droppings.

Soil Contaminated

Referring to the site of his latest findings, Dr. Emmons pointed out in his report that "the park had been periodically and recently cleaned and there was no obvious contamination with bird excreta, although it is known that the soil under the sycamore trees where the collections were made is regularly contaminated with such material.

"It is obvious," he said, "that roosting starlings can create a soil environment suitable for the growth of *Histoplasma capsulatum* even though bird excreta do not accumulate and remain on the surface of the soil."

The report emphasized that other scientists also have suggested "an urban type of human exposure" to histoplasmosis, and noted that histoplasmosis is already well-documented as "an important medical problem in Washington, D. C., and surrounding areas."

Past Exposure Cited

In certain Maryland and Virginia communities, the report says up to 83 percent of the population have shown evidence of past exposure to the disease.

Similar soil isolations of the fungus have been reported from two smaller cities, Milan, Mich., by Dr. Horace J. Dodge, and Mexico, Mo., by Dr. Harold J. Lynch.

In its issue of June 13 the *Record* reported results of laboratory and clinical tests of a new antibiotic derived from an unnamed species of *Streptomyces* said to have therapeutic value against several of the systemic mycoses, including histoplasmosis.

Its co-discoverers, Drs. Emanuel Grunberg and Julius Berger of Hoffman-LaRoche's Chemotherapy Laboratory, assigned the experi-

STUDENTS HERE ON WAY TO LONDON



A visit with Dr. William J. Bowen in the Laboratory of Physical Biology, NIAMD, is included in a tour of NIH by these five U. S. high school students prior to their departure for London, England, as delegates to the Third International Youth Science Fortnight, July 20-August 4. Left to right: Chris Cherniak, Edward G. Fisher, III; Charles K. Holloway, Joyce Meyer, Dr. Bowen, and Sheila L. Grinnell.—Photo by Bob Pumphrey.

INSTITUTES

(Continued from Page 1)

fields of research relating to child health and human development similar to the focus which the existing Institutes provide for their respective disease areas.

If authorized by Congress, it will provide the basis for a stepped-up program of research into such specific problems as congenital malformations, infant mortality, mental retardation, and maternal factors which relate to the health and development of the child.

It will also conduct research into the developmental and adaptive processes (both normal and abnormal), beginning with the reproductive system and continuing through the perinatal period, infancy, and childhood and including the processes of maturation (physiological, physical, intellectual, and social and psychological development) through adolescence and into adulthood.

The research program of this In-

stitute is also planned to form a setting for an effective research effort in the aging process as part of a program concerned with the processes of human development.

Under terms of the President's proposal it is not planned that the new Institute should take over from other Institutes the study of those childhood diseases which can best be undertaken in the context of a specific disease category.

For example, the study of leukemia in children would remain in the National Cancer Institute, and the National Institute of Mental Health would continue to be responsible for research into schizophrenia in children.

Importance Recognized
In proposing the conversion of DGMS into a National Institute of General Medical Sciences, the President gave recognition to the importance of research and research training in the general and basic medical and biological sciences in relation to the progress of medical research.

His action was in accordance with a recommendation by the Committee of Consultants on Medical Research for the Senate Appropriations Committee in its May 1960 report on Federal Support of Medical Research.

At that time the Committee reported that the activities of DGMS had grown and developed to the point that its future operation and consideration by Congress required a more effective focus.

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not covered by the programs of the Institutes.

The Division's Research Training Branch directs two major activities designed to improve and stabilize the relationship between the Nation's health and research manpower. The Training Program provides funds to medical schools and other institutions to aid the training of investigators in the basic biomedical sciences, and the Research Fellowships Program provides funds to aid and improve the flow of competent students through graduate schools at predoctoral and postdoctoral levels in general research training.

In terms of budget, the DGMS programs have grown from \$15 million in fiscal year 1959 to \$81 million for fiscal year 1961. A major DGMS component, the Center for Aging Research fosters a grant program aimed at bringing the full range of research in the biological and behavioral sciences to bear upon the phenomena of aging. In carrying out this program the Center coordinates its work with all of the Institutes as well as DGMS.

Television Rebroadcast Scheduled Here Aug. 9

A television rebroadcast of "Action for Mental Health," a panel discussion produced recently for the ABC television network's off the cuff program, will be shown in the Clinical Center auditorium at 9 a.m. Wednesday, August 9.

The panel program, in which Dr. Robert H. Felix, NIMH Director, is a participant, is concerned with the final report of the Joint Commission for Mental Illness and Health, and current mental health problems.

The original 1½ hour show was broadcast from Chicago during the Annual Meeting of the American Psychiatric Association. Appearing with Dr. Felix, outgoing president of the APA, are four other APA past presidents, Drs. Harry Solomon, Francis Gerty, Leo H. Bartemeier, and Kenneth E. Appel; and Dr. Jack R. Ewalt, Director of the Joint Commission.

The Wednesday showing in the Clinical Center auditorium will be on video-tape and will be broadcast via the Walter Reed Army Medical Center's closed-circuit network. Interested NIH staff members are welcome to attend.

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Currently it is anticipated that the functions of the Center will be incorporated into the proposed Institute for Child Health and Human Development.

In conjunction with the establishment of the new Institutes, the President has recommended the creation of advisory councils for each, similar to the National Advisory Councils associated with the present Institutes and DGMS.