

Research Council is eager to improve the status of biological publication in America. Any suggestions which would help it in its work would be sincerely appreciated. These should be sent to the Chairman, L. V. Heilbrunn, Zoology Department, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Pa.

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THE WISTAR INSTITUTE—AMERICAN FILM CENTER MOTION PICTURE SURVEY

IN recent years the number of motion pictures in medicine and allied subjects has increased enormously. With this increase, however, has come a growing confusion throughout the whole field. Doctors wishing to arrange film programs have been at a loss where to go for information about pictures to fill their needs. The present-day catalogues are full of titles concerning the standard techniques in medicine and surgery, but generally there are no descriptions of the films. Each catalogue also fails in being a complete list on any one topic, because it attempts to include too many and random subjects. Thus the doctor has no means of discriminating between the various films listed.

It is a fact that scientific films are being used in teaching more each year, but that excellent ones are often buried in the mass of mediocre material that no advantage is derived from their existence. Appreciating this, The Wistar Institute of Anatomy and Biology, in collaboration with The American Film Center, made a survey of the pictures in its field. In addition, The Wistar Institute hoped to establish a library of the best productions and research films where they could be catalogued and made available for use. A questionnaire was sent accordingly in February, 1940, to members of The American Society of Zoologists and The American Society of Anatomists asking for information on motion pictures in colleges and medical schools.

The questionnaire was designed to cover three topics: the extent to which medical and biological films are now used, the sources of these films (or the details of their production where they were made on the spot), and whether copies would be made available for filing in The Wistar Institute Library. The results showed an overwhelming interest in the use of teaching pictures. Out of 638 replies, 432 men indicated that films were shown in their classes, and 25 others said there were plans for doing so once the facilities were available.

One hundred and sixteen out of the number using films had made their own, while the remainder had bought, borrowed or rented them, in about equal proportions. Where outside sources were called upon, there were listed the names of 57 different educational

and non-commercial institutions, and 32 commercial groups, including drug-houses, insurance companies, etc. In considering production, the association's members had chosen 16mm film over 35mm by a ratio of 6:1, and one third of those undertaken were in color. While a small number of films were made for lay audiences, the majority were technical, and intended for students as well as other scientific groups. Quite naturally only a few were sound films.

With regard to submitting prints to a central library for filing and distribution there were varied and rather inconclusive answers, although 67 were favorable to such a plan. Distribution and financing problems must be solved before a general acceptance of the scheme will be possible.

The actual value of this survey lies, however, in the use which will be made of its findings. A file is now available, with copies in The Wistar Institute and The American Film Center, of the moving pictures actually used by anatomists and biologists throughout the country, with brief descriptions of the content in most cases. Likewise there is now a list of the sources of the greater number of these films. The Wistar Institute has already set up its reviewing service, whereby critiques of those films passed and reviewed by carefully chosen boards, representing the American Association of Anatomists, the American Society of Zoologists and the Wistar Institute, are printed in its journals. Slowly a library of the best research and teaching pictures is being collected, and distribution plans are to be worked out.

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INDUSTRIAL SOLVENTS AS POSSIBLE ETIOLOGIC AGENTS IN MYELOID METAPLASIA¹

THERE has recently been described under the name of agnogenic myeloid metaplasia a syndrome which both from a clinical and hematologic point of view has been frequently confused with myelogenous leukemia, hemolytic jaundice or anemia.²

The term agnogenic implies that the etiology of the condition was then unknown. A comparison of the histologic findings in this condition with those found in chronic benzol poisoning³ together with certain

¹ From the Collis P. Huntington Memorial Hospital, Mallory Institute of Pathology, Thorndike Memorial Laboratory, Second and Fourth Medical Services (Harvard), Boston City Hospital, and the Department of Medicine, Harvard Medical School, Boston.

² Henry Jackson, Jr., Frederic Parker, Jr., and Henry M. Lemon, *New England Jour. Med.*, 222: 985-994, 1940.

³ Tracy B. Mallory, Edward A. Gall and William J. Brickley, *Jour. Indust. Hyg. and Toxicol.*, 21: 355-392, 1939.