

THE DYSENTERY REGISTRY

THE present military situation and the general increasing interest in bacillary dysentery has resulted in many inquiries concerning the work of the Dysentery Registry. The organization was founded in 1933 for the prevention and study of bacillary dysentery. It was found that when cases of infectious diarrhea as a whole were carefully studied, most of them appeared to be bacillary dysentery. Greater interest in the recognition of bacillary dysentery and an actual rising incidence of the disease in the United States resulted in a forty-fold increase in the number of reported cases between the years 1933 and 1941. Major advances in bacillary dysentery have occurred during this period. A seven-point program for the control of the disease was formulated in 1933 and was largely responsible for the compulsory reporting of bacillary dysentery in all states by 1940 (it had not been a reportable disease in 15 states in 1937).

As part of the educational program, a film entitled "Hand to Mouth" (800 feet, 16 mm silent) was produced for the New York World's Fair. Since then copies of the film have been loaned, without cost, to public health and educational agencies throughout the United States and South America. Others have been purchased at actual cost by the American Medical Association and many of our state and city health departments. A permanent copy is on file at the Wistar Institute.¹

The registry has received the cooperation of government officials throughout the world, and has, in turn, given freely of its accumulated knowledge and resources.

Since the outbreak of the second world war, the work of the Dysentery Registry in furnishing strains or diagnostic sera and in the identification of atypical organisms for public health and military laboratories has greatly increased. Preliminary tests during the past two months indicate the wide applicability in the United States of the Boyd strains and of the new classification of the dysentery group of organisms.

Regional branches of the registry are now in process of formation throughout the world, chiefly at universities and departments of health. The present membership roster includes most of the prominent investigators in the field, chiefly associated with universities and government public health agencies. The central registry has been supported by the Bronx Hospital and by the voluntary contributions of friends of the registry (Blood Betterment Association, Schonbrunn and Golding Funds). Although available funds are very limited, economical management has made possible the rendering of all services without cost to those

who seek them. There is every reasonable expectation that the problem of bacillary dysentery and the other infectious diarrheas will increase during the war and post-war periods.

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RARE CHEMICALS

THE following chemicals are wanted by the National Registry of Rare Chemicals, Armour Research Foundation, 33rd, Dearborn and Federal Streets, Chicago, Ill.:

p-Aminophenylalanine
Berberine hydrochloride
Decamethylenediguanidine
Ergothionine
Iodoacetic acid (large quantities)
Laevo butandiol-2,3
Methyl silican chlorides (CH₃) Si Cl₃ or (CH₃)₂ Si Cl₂
Nickel tetra carbonyl
Pseudo-ionone
Piperonylidine acetophenone
Sodium sulfadiazine
Trimethyl sulphine hydroxide (CH₃)₃ S-OH
Thiolhistidine
2-Thioparabanic acid
Vinyl ethyl ether
Vinyl stearate
Xanthopterin

PROGRAM OF THE LANCASTER BRANCH OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE

THE Lancaster Branch of the American Association, which has approximately a thousand members, has announced the following lecturers with their subjects for the season 1943 to 1944:

November 11, Dr. David Sarnoff, president of the Radio Corporation of America, "Industrial Science Looks Ahead."

December 9, The Rev. Bernard R. Hubbard, S.J., geologist at Santa Clara University and well-known lecturer, "The Aleutian Battleground."

January 13, Albert Q. Maisel, war correspondent, "Miracles of Military Medicine."

February 17, Dr. Kirtley F. Mather, professor of geology at Harvard University, "Natural Resources and World Organization."

March 30, Larry F. Livingston, manager of the Agricultural Extension Division of the E. I. du Pont de Nemours and Company, "Yesterday, To-day and Tomorrow."

Officers of the branch are: Jaques Cattell, *Chairman*; Dr. C. C. Vogt, *Vice-chairman*; Dr. Frances A. Coventry, *Secretary*, and Professor H. M. Fry, *Treasurer*.

¹ Reviews of Approved Films in Anatomy and Biology, *Anatomical Record*.