News of Science

International Committee on Laboratory Animals

The world demand for laboratory animals continues to increase enormously, especially for specialized strains and for animals of uniformly high quality. Unless proper steps are taken, it is certain that progress in experimental biology and medicine will be delayed or hindered. In addition to the many national problems of laboratory animal supply and use, there are many of a universal nature which could best be solved on a coordinated international basis.

Consultants on laboratory animals who were convened by UNESCO in Paris last December recommended formation of an International Committee on Laboratory Animals. Such a committee was established under the auspices of the International Union of Biological Sciences (IUBS), UNESCO, and the Council for International Organizations of Medical Sciences (CIOMS), which includes the International Union of Physiological Sciences, the International Union of Biochemistry, and the International Union against Cancer. The new committee was formed from a reorganization of a Committee on Laboratory Animals that IUBS established in Rome in April 1955, and from a program established by UNESCO based on recommendations of the Cell Biology Program of CIOMS in December 1955.

The International Committee on Laboratory Animals consists of: a representative of IUBS, Sven O. Hörstadius, president of IUBS, chairman of the committee; W. Lane-Petter, director, Laboratory Animals Bureau, Medical Research Council, United Kingdom, honorary executive secretary of the committee; M. M. Sabourdy, director, Centre de Selection des Animaux de Laboratoire, Centre National de la Récherche Scientifique, France; Dale W. Jenkins, chairman, Institute of Laboratory Animal Resources, National Academy of Sciences–National Research Council, U.S.A.; a representative of CIOMS, to be appointed; and a representative of UNESCO, to be appointed.

At present, the committee is surveying laboratory animal sources and utilization in the United Kingdom, the Benelux countries, France, Italy, and Scandinavia, including Finland and Iceland. Additional countries will be surveyed in the near future. The committee is patterning its activities on an international scale after the programs of the Institute of Laboratory Animal Resources of the NAS–NRC (U.S.A.) and the Laboratory Animals Bureau of the Medical Research Council (U.K.). It is attempting to stimulate formation of similar organizations in other countries.

The aims of this international committee are to insure adequate supplies of uniform, high-quality laboratory animals and to determine the action required to prevent any serious shortages from arising. A world list of strains of laboratory animals is being compiled and a documentation center will be established. The common terms used in relation to laboratory animals are being defined precisely and quantitatively with regard to genetics, disease and parasitism, nutrition, care, and performance records. These terms will be standardized on an international basis.

The committee will prepare a report on the customs, quarantine, and other regulations concerning international shipment of laboratory animals, and formulate recommendations for proper conditions of transportation. The committee will also determine the need for establishing an information exchange; an educational program for animal technicians and caretakers; internationally recognized standards for laboratory animals, and systems for certifying animals and for accrediting of suppliers.

Johns Hopkins

The Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine has announced an extensively revised program of medical education that will cut 2 years off training time for specially selected students and 1 year for all other students. A total of $10 million to finance the plan has been received from the Rockefeller Foundation, the Ford Foundation, the Commonwealth Fund, the U.S. Public Health Service, and various private sources.

The money will provide for the construction of a new basic-science building at the medical school and the support of additional faculty. The plan will probably be put into effect on completion of the building in the fall of 1959.

The objectives of the new program have been stated as follows: (i) to shorten the formal education of physicians without sacrificing quality of training; (ii) to overcome the barrier between the liberal arts and medical sciences by enabling students in medical school to continue studies in the humanities and social sciences; (iii) to encourage more students to enter careers in the basic sciences of medicine—such as physiology, anatomy, and pharmacology—where the greatest shortages of teachers and research workers now exist.

Selected candidates of adequate "motivation and maturity" will be permitted to enter medical school as full graduate students after only two years of college, while continuing their college education. Other students may enter after 3 years of college, and still others after the complete 4 years of college.

Those who are accepted after 2 years of college wil take a 5-year course in medical school. They will continue studies in the liberal arts during the first 3 years of medical school, at the end of which they will receive a bachelor of arts degree. Students accepted after 3 or 4 years of college will begin medical school with the second year of the 5-year program. For all students the last year of medical school will be combined with the first year of internship in the Johns Hopkins Hospital, where each student will go through the major clinical services in turn, performing the duties now done by interns.

In addition to the usual 24-hour responsibility for patients, the student will be given a 2-month elective period for special work in basic science or additional clinical training in any one of the various departments of the hospital. He will pay tuition but will receive board and lodging, or their equivalent, in return for services to patients. At the time of graduation each student will have completed not only the required work in medical school but also a year of hospital internship.

While the years of medical training are cut, the actual period of training is shortened relatively little. In certain respects it will be more intensive than at present, for the academic year will be increased from the present 32 weeks to 40 weeks, and in the fifth year the training will cover 50 weeks.

The combined resources of the faculties of medicine, hygiene, and philosophy will become more widely available to graduate students in the basic medical sciences. This factor, combined with the shortened time required for formal education, should enable Hopkins to train an

increasing number of qualified teachers and investigators in those fields. The schedule will provide generous allotments of free time so that students can engage as actively as possible in research during their formative years in medical school.

Shortened time for medical education will mean a cut in the total cost of training. Earlier completion of training will enable more students to obtain optimal postgraduate training in hospital residencies.

National Science Policy

The following suggestions for an adequate national science policy are discussed in a recent issue of the *Saturday Review* by Sidney Hyman, *Washington Post* reporter:

"A Secretary of Science in the Presidential Cabinet ought to be considered. Failing it, the very least we can ask is a Science Commission on the same level of prestige and authority as the Bureau of the Budget, the Council of Economic Advisors, and the National Security Council. On this Science Commission the National Science Foundation should be represented alongside major department heads, including the Secretary of State. And the Secretary of State in that position should be the channel for Science Attachés in American embassies to acquaint the President with impacts of science abroad. . . .

"As a Congressional offset to the growing autonomy of a science-entrenched Executive one thing is plainly needed. It is a Joint Congressional Committee on Science, backed in depth by a technical staff. . . ."

Radiation Protection Group Appoints New Executive Committee

The National Committee on Radiation Protection and Measurements (NCRP) has announced a change in the membership of its executive committee. Within the operating procedures of the NCRP, the executive committee is responsible for the broad policies and direction of the work of the committee, and its membership is selected to provide as broad representation as possible of the many disciplines that are involved in the philosophy and development of radiation protection.

Sponsored by the National Bureau of Standards, the NCRP is an advisory group of experts in various phases of the radiation field and is made up of representatives from the following organizations: American College of Radiology, American Dental Association, American Industrial Hygiene Association, American Medical Association, American Radium Society, American Roentgen Ray Society, International Association of Government Labor Officials, National Bureau of Standards, National Electrical Manufacturers Association, Radiological Society of North America, U.S. Air Force, U.S. Army, U.S. Atomic Energy Commission, U.S. Navy, and U.S. Public Health Service. The recommendations of the committee are published by the U.S. Government Printing Office in the NBS Handbook series.

The members of the new executive committee and their institutional affiliations are as follows: L. S. Taylor, chairman, Atomic and Radiation Physics Division, National Bureau of Standards; E. C. Barnes, Industrial Hygiene Department, Westinghouse Electric Corporation; C. B. Braestrup, Physics Laboratory, Francis Delafield Hospital (City of New York Department of Hospitals); C. L. Dunham, Division of Biology and Medicine, U.S. Atomic Energy Commission; H. Bentley Glass, Department of Biology, Johns Hopkins University; H. M. Parker, Hanford Laboratories, General Electric Company; Clinton Powell, Division of Special Health Services, U.S. Public Health Service; Robert S. Stone, Medical Center, University of California; Shields Warren, Cancer Research Institute, New England Deaconess Hospital.

Training in Steroid Biochemistry

Applications are now being accepted for the second course in the Training Program for Steroid Biochemistry, a program that is conducted through the cooperative effort of the Worcester Foundation for Experimental Biology, the department of chemistry of Clark University, and the department of biochemistry of the University of Utah. The program is sponsored by the National Cancer Institute to provide specialized training for people interested in steroid investigation. Two groups of candidates will be selected and will receive stipends during the period of training.

Postdoctoral candidates having an M.D. or Ph.D. degree will receive $5000 for 1 year starting 1 Oct. 1957. The training will consist of laboratory sessions and lectures covering theoretical and practical aspects of steroid research, and an opportunity to engage in a research problem under an established investigator.

Candidates having a B.S., M.S., or equivalent degree will receive $1500 for a 6-month training period, 1 Oct. 1957 through Mar. 1958. The predoctoral program is intended to provide competency in the analysis of steroid compounds for research and clinical laboratories.

The closing date for applications is *15 Aug.* Requests for applications should be made to Dr. Kristen Eik-Nes, Department of Biochemistry, College of Medicine, University of Utah, Salt Lake City, Utah, or to Dr. Frank Ungar, Department of Chemistry, Clark University, Worcester, Mass.

Reynolds Memorial Fund

The faculty of the department of biology at the University of Virginia has started a memorial fund in the name of the late Bruce D. Reynolds. Interest on all money collected will be applied to an annual fellowship for each season of the Mountain Lake Biological Station. Reynolds was instrumental in founding the station in 1930, and he resigned as its director last fall. Checks should be made out to the Bruce D. Reynolds Memorial Fund and mailed to the secretary of the fund, Biology Building, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, Va.

$5000 Hoblitzelle Award in Agriculture

The Hoblitzelle national award in the agricultural sciences, consisting of $5000 and a gold medal to the person who has made the most important scientific contribution to American agriculture for the preceding 4-year period, will be presented in May 1958. The contribution meriting this award must have been published in the period from 1 Jan. 1953 through 31 Dec. 1956. There is no intention of excluding research that may have been initiated earlier, but the results must have been published in those 4 years. Popular articles, mimeographed progress reports, and digests are not generally considered as complying with the standards of the award.

All nominations will be channelled through regional committees. There will be a committee in each state to cover the continental United States, and one each for Alaska, Hawaii, and Puerto Rico. In performing its function, each committee is requested to give equal consideration to all scientists, irrespective of creed, color, nationality, age, branch of science, or affiliation with scientific or scholastic organization.

Nominations may be made by the regional committees or by individuals, groups, or agencies. The nominator must furnish the regional committee with five copies each of the following items: the publication or publications on which the nomination is based; a written evaluation of the nominee's contribution and its national significance to agriculture; a short biographical sketch of the nominee; and such other information as he may feel is necessary to support the nomination. In making nominations it