

News and Notes

Veterans Administration Radioisotope Conference

George M. Lyon

*Radioisotope Section, Research and Education Service, Department of Medicine and Surgery,
Veterans Administration*

THE FIFTH SEMI-ANNUAL CONFERENCE of the directors of the radioisotope program of the 14 Veterans Administration hospitals with radioisotope laboratories was held in the hospital at Framingham, Mass., on November 29-December 1. Problems in the use of radioiodine in studying function and disease of the thyroid gland occupied the first day and a half of the session. The second day and a half were devoted to training programs being conducted for Veterans Administration personnel in three different but closely related fields of interest: "The Medical Aspects of Atomic Warfare," "The Medical Aspects of Radiological Defense," and "Radiological Defense (Monitors)."

Herbert Allen and Raymond Libby, of the Los Angeles hospital, described the successful use of 1 microcurie of radioiodine in evaluating thyroid function. This has been made possible by the employment of a scintillation counter developed by Benjamin Cassen and associates, of the Atomic Energy Project and the Medical School of the University of California at Los Angeles. Mortimer Morton, of the Long Beach hospital, described the successful use of a bismuth-walled Geiger-Mueller tube for a similar purpose when employing tracer doses of radioiodine varying from 0.2 to 10 microcuries. George LeRoy, of the Hines hospital, reported the successful use of 10 microcuries of radioiodine. Because of the advantages offered in the use of very small tracer doses of radioiodine for clinical diagnostic purposes, a considerable effort was made during the past year to develop techniques aimed at the use of 10 microcuries of radioiodine or less. The use of 1 microcurie will permit repeated tests with complete safety as well as use of radioiodine in studying thyroid function in small children. Joseph Ross and others reported improvements in the use of radioiodine in a more accurate assessment of thyroid function.

During October and November, 373 Veterans Administration personnel, other than physicians and nurses, received basic instruction in "Radiological Defense." These will constitute the "monitors" for 123 radiological defense teams for Veterans Administration hospitals. In evaluating the training activities, 80 hours of combined formal and practical instruction were considered the minimum time requirement for basic instruction. A continuing in-service training program will include monthly or semimonthly practice periods.

Instruction for physicians of the Veterans Administration in the "Medical Aspects of Atomic Warfare" has been given in several of the hospitals having radioisotope programs. Ten hours of formal instruction have proved to be adequate for this purpose.

Basic instruction for selected physicians of the Veterans Administration in the "Medical Aspects of Radiological Defense" is planned for implementation early this year. It is considered that 30 hours of combined formal and practical instruction will be required for this purpose. It will be possible to permit practical exercises in conjunction with the radiological defense teams in the hospital where the training is conducted.

This training program has been made possible because of the existence of qualified personnel, equipment, and facilities employed in the peacetime application of atomic energy in the radioisotope laboratories of the 14 Veterans Administration hospitals having radioisotope units, and may be considered as a worth-while contribution of such a program. In 7 of the hospitals, serving either on a full-time basis or as consultant-instructors, were individuals who had practical experience in radiological safety operations in one or more atomic bomb tests.

Scientists in the News

Thomas D. Rowe has resigned as dean of the Rutgers University College of Pharmacy to become dean of the College of Pharmacy at the University of Michigan. Dr. Rowe has been chairman of National Pharmacy Week for the American Pharmaceutical Association since 1947. He will take up his new post on June 30.

The suit brought by Albert Schatz, Brooklyn College professor, against Selman A. Waksman, Rutgers Uni-

versity microbiologist, and the Rutgers Research and Endowment Foundation was settled late last month. Dr. Schatz retracted his charge that Dr. Waksman had used "fraud and duress" to induce him to assign to the foundation his rights in the patent on the drug streptomycin. For his part in the discovery of streptomycin, Dr. Schatz will receive 3 per cent of the net royalties from the drug starting October 1, 1950. He will also receive \$125,000 for assignment by him of his rights in Canadian, New Zealand, Japanese, and all other foreign patent rights to the foundation. Dr. Schatz, a former student of Dr. Waksman, had

originally sought 50 per cent of all royalties for his part in the discovery. Dr. Schatz is one of 26 persons who worked with Dr. Waksman on the discovery and development of streptomycin who will receive financial recognition for their work. Net royalties to September 30, 1950, were approximately \$2,360,000. Eighty per cent of the royalties will remain in the foundation, for further scientific research, including the work of the Institute of Microbiology.

Recent visitors at the Communicable Disease Center, USPHS, Atlanta, were **Akira Tanaka**, Public Sanitation Bureau, Welfare Ministry, Tokyo; **Luis Morato Proenca**, State Health Department, São Paulo; and **Erkki Klemola**, City Hospital for Communicable Diseases, Helsinki.

C. Richard Walmer, a senior fellow at the Mellon Institute of Industrial Research since 1946, has been named director of the Industrial Hygiene Foundation. He has been medical director of the foundation, which operates under the auspices of the institute, for four years. Dr. Walmer succeeds the late **John F. McMahon**.

Hideki Yukawa, winner of the 1949 Nobel prize in physics, will become professor of physics at Columbia University on July 1. He has been visiting professor at the university on leave from Kyoto University since 1949. Dr. Yukawa will teach advanced physics and will continue his research.

Meetings and Elections

The recently elected officers of the **Central States Section of the Botanical Society of America** are: chairman, G. W. Prescott, Michigan State College; vice chairman, Oswald Tippo, University of Illinois; secretary-treasurer, Robert L. Hulbary, State University of Iowa; member of the Executive Committee (three-year term), R. E. Cleland, Indiana University.

The First National Congress of Applied Mechanics will be held on June 11-16, at Illinois Institute of Technology, Chicago. The general chairman of the congress is L. H. Donnell, of Illinois Institute of Technology. Papers for presentation at the congress must be submitted before *April 14*, and should constitute original research in applied mechanics, which includes kinematics, dynamics, vibrations, waves, mechanical properties of materials and failure, stress analysis elasticity, plasticity, fluid mechanics, and thermodynamics. Papers should not be longer than 5,000 words. They will be grouped by subject, and half an hour will be allotted for presentation and discussion of each paper.

The 1951 Pittsburgh Conference on Analytical Chemistry and Applied Spectroscopy will be held at the William Penn Hotel, Pittsburgh, Pa., March 5-7. The conference is sponsored by the Analytical Chemical Society and the Spectroscopy Society of Pitts-

burgh. An exposition of modern laboratory equipment will be a feature of the conference.

The American Academy of Forensic Sciences will hold its annual meeting March 1-3, at the Drake Hotel, Chicago. Persons desiring to present papers should write to A. W. Freireich, Chairman Program Committee, 180 Hempstead Ave., Malverne, N. Y. For additional information write to the office of the president, R. B. H. Gradwohl, 3514 Lucas Ave., St. Louis 3, Mo.

The AIBS Advisory Committee on Physiology for the **Office of Naval Research** met on December 2 to evaluate research proposals submitted during the past six months. Proposals for basic research in the various areas of physiology are now being accepted for consideration at the next meeting of the Committee, in Cleveland, May 4-5. The deadline for the reception of proposals is *March 15*. For further information address: Chief of Naval Research, Office of Naval Research, Department of the Navy, Washington 25, D. C. Attention: Physiology Branch, Code 441.

At the annual meeting of the **Association for Research in Nervous and Mental Disease** held December 15-16, the following officers were elected for 1951: president, S. Bernard Wortis; first vice president, John C. Whitehorn; second vice president, J. Lawrence Pool; secretary-treasurer, Clarence C. Hare; assistant secretary, Rollo J. Masselink.

The following is a schedule of the 1951 meetings of the **American Meteorological Society**: 109th national meeting, January 29-February 1, Hotel New Yorker, New York; 110th national meeting, May 2-3, Washington, D. C.; 111th national meeting, June 19-21, Los Angeles; and the 112th national meeting, October 9-11, Minneapolis.

The Institute of Medicine of Chicago announces the following officers for 1951: president, Walter H. Theobald; vice president, Charles W. Freeman; secretary, George H. Coleman; treasurer, E. Lee Strohl. Henry T. Ricketts has been reelected chairman of the Board of Governors.

The National Bureau of Standards will celebrate its 50th anniversary this year. Many of the principal scientific and technical organizations of the nation have planned meetings in Washington to honor the semicentennial. The meeting of the American Society of Photogrammetry (January 10-12) and the joint AIEE, IRE, NBS Conference on High Frequency Measurements (January 10-12) have already been held. Coming meetings are:

American Crystallographic Association, February 15-17
Inter-Society Color Council, February 28
Optical Society of America, February 28-March 3
Electrochemical Society, April 8-12
Union Radio Scientifique Internationale, April 16-18

National Academy of Sciences, April 23-25
 APS Division of High Polymer Physics, April 26-28
 American Physical Society, April 26-28
 Bone Char Conference II, May 3-4
 Acoustical Society of America, May 10-12
 Horological Institute of America, May 14-15
 Society for Experimental Stress Analysis, May 16-18
 National Conference on Weights and Measures, May 22-25
 Analytical Division, American Chemical Society, June 14-16
 American Astronomical Society, June 21-23
 Illuminating Engineering Society, August 26-September 1
 International Union of Chemistry, September 13-15
 American Roentgen Ray Society, September 25-28
 American Dental Association, October 15-20
 National Institute of Governmental Purchasing, October 21-24
 Institute of Mathematical Statistics, October 26-27
 American Mathematical Society, October 27
 Conference on Electrical Insulation (NRC), October 29-31
 APS Division of Electron Physics, November 1-3

In addition, a number of committee conferences and meetings of local sections of societies will be held at the bureau. The bureau is also planning a series of symposia on special topics.

Grants and Awards

The **John Fritz Medal** has been awarded to Vannevar Bush, president of the Carnegie Institution. Awarded jointly by the American Institute of Electrical Engineers, the American Society of Civil Engineers, the American Institute of Mining and Metallurgical Engineers, and the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, the medal will be presented during the annual winter general meeting of the AIEE at the Hotel Statler, New York, January 22-26.

Lists of foreign scholars who have been awarded **Fulbright travel grants** for lecturing or advanced research in the U. S. for the current academic year are available from the Committee on International Exchange of Persons, Conference Board of Associated Research Councils, 2101 Constitution Ave., Washington 25, D. C. Lists have been made for the physical, biological, and social sciences, and for education and the humanities, including for each scholar the date of arrival, length of stay, and the institution sponsoring the visit. It is the hope of the committee that universities and research institutions will invite visiting scientists to inspect their facilities and take part in scientific programs. Many visitors under the Fulbright program are leading research workers in their fields and can offer expert advice in return for the opportunity of becoming acquainted with American institutions of higher learning.

Establishment of an annual \$1,000 award for outstanding contributions to chemical education, sponsored by the **Scientific Apparatus Makers Association**, Chicago, and administered by the American Chemical Society, has been announced. The activities recognized by the award may lie in the fields of teaching, organization and administration, influential writing, educational research, the methodology of instruction, establishment of standards of instruction, and public enlightenment.

Karl T. Compton, chairman of the Corporation of MIT, received the first award of the \$1,000 **William Procter Prize for Scientific Achievement**, administered by the Scientific Research Society of America. It was given in recognition of Dr. Compton's record in scientific research, for his administration as president of MIT from 1930 to 1948, and for his work as chairman of many national committees concerned with research. The presentation was made December 29 at the AAAS meeting in Cleveland.

Lute J. Parkinson, mining consultant, was presented with the **Colorado School of Mines Distinguished Achievement Award** December 15. Given to graduates who make outstanding records in the mineral industries field, and who bring credit to themselves and the school, his was the 59th award made. He is a mining consultant for the Anglo-Chilean Nitrate Corporation and the Lautaro Nitrate Co., Ltd., of Antofagasta, Chile.

A gift of \$5,250,000 from the **Alfred P. Sloan Foundation** will enable MIT to establish a new School of Industrial Management. The school will offer future industrial executives a correlated program in industrial problems as well as in science, engineering, and research. It will open in 1952.

Fellowships

Candidates are now being sought for the \$2,500 **Merck Graduate Fellowship in Analytical Chemistry** sponsored by Merck & Co., Inc., Rahway, N. J., and administered by the American Chemical Society. The place of study must be an institution whose undergraduate course in chemistry is approved by the ACS; in Canada the institution must be approved by the Chemical Institute of Canada. A student is eligible to have the fellowship renewed twice, but no student may hold it for more than three years. Application blanks may be obtained from the American Chemical Society, 1155 16th St., N.W., Washington 6, D. C. They must be returned with letters of recommendation and transcripts of credits by *February 15*.

The **Florida State University** has announced the availability of graduate assistantships for study in meteorology and climatology. Appointments will be made in connection with research being conducted for ONR and the Air Materiel Command. The student will be excused from payment of the out-of-state tuition fee and permitted to carry as many as 10 hours of course work. Minimum requirement is a bachelor's

degree from an accredited institution, with two years of university mathematics and one year of university physics. Applications should be filed before *May 1*. Forms and information may be obtained from the Dean, Graduate School, The Florida State University, Tallahassee.

NRC News

Reports of recent research progress prepared by two committees of the **NRC Division of Geology and Geography** are available from the division office: *Report of the Committee on the Measurement of Geologic Time, 1949-1950* (118 pp., \$1.00), and *Report of the Committee on a Treatise on Marine Ecology and Paleoecology, 1949-1950* (59 pp., \$1.00). The geologic time report surveys recent work in the determination of isotope ratios, the chemical composition of certain minerals, the accurate measurement of feeble radioactivity, and similar research bearing on the problem of dating rocks and other natural materials. Several progress reports containing unpublished material submitted to the committee are included, and also some recent theoretical calculations on the time of formation of the elements by J. M. Lopez de Azcona, Instituto Nacional de Geofísica, Madrid. The report contains an annotated bibliography of recent articles related to the measurement of geologic time. The marine ecology and paleoecology report contains also the review of current research in the field and the bibliography of recent publication. Special sections include a complete annotated bibliography on the ecology of marine bacteria, and a discussion of the strontium cycle in the study of ecosystems.

Section III, *Reactor Engineering*, of NRC's *Glossary of Terms in Nuclear Science and Technology*, is now available in preliminary edition from the publishers, the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, 29 W. 39th St., New York 18. This is the third of nine proposed sections to be issued for a period of trial and criticism before the glossary is published in book form. Section V, *Chemical Engineering*, and Section VI, *Biophysics and Radiobiology*, both published earlier, are still in print and may be ordered for 60¢ from ASME. Section III is 75¢. The glossary is being prepared with the cooperation of scientific and technical societies and government agencies to provide standard definitions in the field. Each of the preliminary sections contains a list of all terms that will appear in the glossary, with the sections in which they will be found. Sections still in preparation are "General Terms," "Reactor Theory," "Chemistry," "Instrumentation," "Isotopes Separation," and "Metallurgy."

Miscellaneous

The IBEC Research Institute has been formed to carry on research in tropical and subtropical agriculture and related fields. This is one of several organi-

zations formed by Nelson A. Rockefeller and his associates since World War II to aid in the development of basic resources abroad, using modern technology and management. Initial research of the institute will be on improvement of tropical agriculture in Brazil and Venezuela, with special reference to coffee techniques and the growing of rice and corn. Robert P. Russell, who resigned as vice president of International Basic Economy Corporation, is president of the institute, which is distinct from IBEC.

The German Chemical Industry: a Bibliography of the Chemical, Metallurgical and Process Industries, prepared by L. Wilson Greene for the Office of Technical Services, Department of Commerce, is one of the most complete works relating to captured technology. The bibliography contains over 2,000 references with descriptive titles or abstracts, and includes a subject index, author indexes, and cross-indexes with OTS, British, and U. S. military report numbers. Particularly helpful are sections dealing with translations and reports available from private publication services. The publication may be obtained from OTS, U. S. Department of Commerce, Washington 25, D. C., for \$10.

The National Bureau of Standards urgently needs competent scientists in the fields of electronic science, engineering, and physics for research and development for the Department of Defense. The work offers opportunities for advancement and may often form the basis for a doctor's thesis. The most urgent need is for engineers and physicists at starting salaries of \$4,600-\$8,800. Applications are being accepted by the U. S. Civil Service Commission, Washington 25, D. C. Applications may be obtained from most first- and second-class post offices, from Civil Service regional offices, or from the commission's Washington office.

Publications Received

Proceedings of the 29th Annual Meeting, Highway Research Board. Division of Engineering and Industrial Research, National Research Council, 2101 Constitution Ave., Washington, D. C.

Procedures for Home Freezing of Vegetables, Fruits, and Prepared Foods: Classified Notes on Review of Literature. Agricultural Handbook No. 2. U. S. GPO, Washington 25, D. C. 40¢.

Fiberglas Bibliography. 3rd ed., 1950. Public Relations Director, Owens-Corning Fiberglas Corp., Toledo, Ohio.

The Utilization of Sucrose. Leslie F. Wiggins. Tech. Report Series No. 7. Sugar Research Foundation, 52 Wall St., New York 5.

Ozone and its Application in Food Preservation. A. W. Ewell. American Society for Refrigerating Engineers, 40 W. 40th St., New York 18.

Annual Report of the National Bureau of Standards—1949. NBS Misc. Publ. 198. U. S. GPO, Washington 25, D. C.

Space-Time Structure. Erwin Schrödinger. Cambridge Univ. Press, 51 Madison Ave., New York 10.