study of his Personal Security Questionnaire and eventually channeled through these officers, is done by agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. If, as usually happens in the case of persons on the Yale faculty, or suitable for temporary appointment to render highly specialized services under a research contract, the investigation involves work outside areas administered from New York City, it appears to be the standard practice to make formal requests for such cooperation to officers in other Naval Districts, or overseas, so that in an extreme case there may be questions awaiting from half-a-dozen completely separate and completely uninterested offices, all overloaded with locally imposed tasks. No information as to the progress of any investigation short of completion is allowed to get back to the individual concerned or to the Contractor.

During the life of the project that I am directing, a total of more than 100 persons have, in spite of all this, been cleared for access to secret security information, but delays have tended to increase both in number and in duration, and during such delays the usefulness of the affected individual has been less, the progress of the project as a whole has been slower, and the public interest has been correspondingly damaged. There are now pending three cases more than a year old. For the record, and with the permission of the individuals concerned to make this disclosure, I can report that the individuals thus currently delayed are: Dr. Ray W. Jackson, a Canadian citizen; Professor Carl W. Miller, a member of the physics department of Brown University; and Miss Virginia Withington, an engineer and a Lieutenant in the Naval Reserve (not on active duty). Dr. Jackson's case, as that of an alien, is especially troublesome because the corresponding confidential clearance, within the competence of the Contractor for American citizens, is also currently jammed in this case.

I suggest, in the interest of speed, at least in urgent defense research projects, that, as soon as it appears that inordinate delay in the clearance procedure may occur, the responsible officer in the armed forces be authorized, if this is not already within his discretion, to interview the person under investigation, in order to supplement or clarify the information contained in the Personal Security Questionnaire, to permit open discussion of the delaying circumstances, to provide further guidance for, and more effective pressure upon, supposedly cooperating offices, and to assist generally in reaching a wise and early decision in the case. This would appear especially appropriate in view of President Eisenhower's recent statement on the necessity of allowing anyone accused, however obliquely, of conduct or association impairing his reputation, to know about and reply to the accusation.

During my association with the Navy, both in it and out of it, during the past 50 years, this is the first period in which I have observed it to be dilatory, uncertain, and panicky in handling security questions. I suspect that the same malady affects the Army and the Air Force. I think the reasons for this deplorable situation are sufficiently well known not to need discussion here.

I am sending copies of this letter to a number of people who may be interested, and may also submit it for publication in an appropriate place. I hope any comments that you may wish to make may be equally open to the public.

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Received December 14, 1953.

A Dew Recorder[1]

In the epiphytology of the potato and tomato late blight disease caused by the fungus *Phytophthora infestans,* information was needed on the relation of dew duration to secondary infection. As a result, a search was made for a dew duration recorder. An examination of the literature revealed only the descriptions of several instruments that record quantity of dew. Hence, a dew duration recorder was developed.

The instrument shown in Fig. 1 was constructed to record the onset and duration of dew deposition. The apparatus is simple in construction and operation. The dew detecting element is a strip of lamb gut attached to a pen arm. When dew is deposited on the membrane, it expands and releases the pen arm toward the chart which is attached to a drum driven by a 7-day clock. The pen, filled with common hygroscopic recording ink, traces the period of dew deposition. When the dew evaporates, the element dries and contracts, thereby pulling the pen arm and attached pen away from the chart.

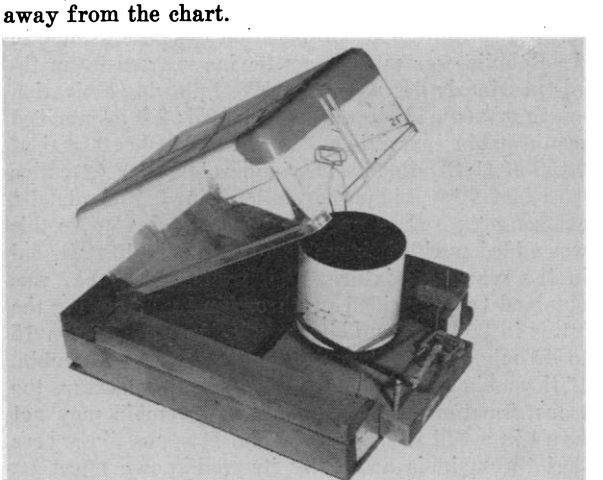

Fig. 1. Wallin-Polhemus dew recorder.

[1] Journal paper no. 2398 of the Iowa Agricultural Experiment Station, Ames, Project 1163. Report of a study conducted under the Research and Marketing Act of 1946. The investigation was cooperative between the Iowa Agricultural Experiment Station and the Division of Mycology & Disease Survey, Bureau of Plant Industry, Soils and Agr. Engineering, U.S. Department of Agriculture.

In field tests in the summer of 1953, the instrument was placed between rows of tomato and potato plants. Within 5 min after visible dew appeared on surrounding foliage, the pen began tracing. In the morning, from 1 to 1.5 hr after sunrise, the pen ceased tracing within 5 min after the disappearance of visible dew from surrounding foliage. Usually at this time solar radiation was measurable in the plot.

The instrument has been designated the Wallin-Polhemus dew recorder and has been submitted to the U.S. Patent Office. Patent is pending.

J. R. WALLIN
DALE N. POLHEMUS

U.S. Department of Agriculture
Ames, Iowa

Received January 11, 1954.

A Classified Bibliography of Inbred Strains of Mice[1]

The Roscoe B. Jackson Memorial Laboratory has compiled and maintains a bibliography of all papers appearing in books, journals, and reprints in which reference is made to specific inbred strains of mice, named genes in mice, or named transplantable tumors. This was started in 1948, and was intended solely for use by Jackson Laboratory personnel. However, because of its ever increasing magnitude (now approaching 5000 references), we feel that other investigators in the fields covered might be interested in using it. Any qualified investigator or student is welcome to use the bibliography. The references are fairly complete for the English-language publications, somewhat less so for other languages.

From the Keysort 5 by 8 in. cards on which the references have been classified, one can, by a small number of insertions of the stylus, sort out all the references on the use of any strain for some particular problem; on the incidence of various conditions in any strain; on any strain or named tumor; on the uses of any transplantable tumor; on all available comparisons of neoplastic and normal tissues; on any work with named genes; and so on. Use is made of two types of sorting: "direct," in which the subject or strain is individually named on the margins of the reference card, and "indirect," for which it is necessary to consult a key or index and needle a code number to locate references to the branch of a field of interest, or the particular minor strain, or the named transplantable tumor which one is seeking.

The mouse strains which are direct-punched are those available in quantity through the supply department of the Jackson Memorial Laboratory. These are in general the most widely used strains. Twenty-four other strains are coded in a numbered field. Particular named hybrids are indicated by punching the parent strains. Ten holes on the card have been left blank for future expansions of the classification system.

[1] It is a pleasure to acknowledge the generous financial assistance of the Ladies Auxiliary to the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

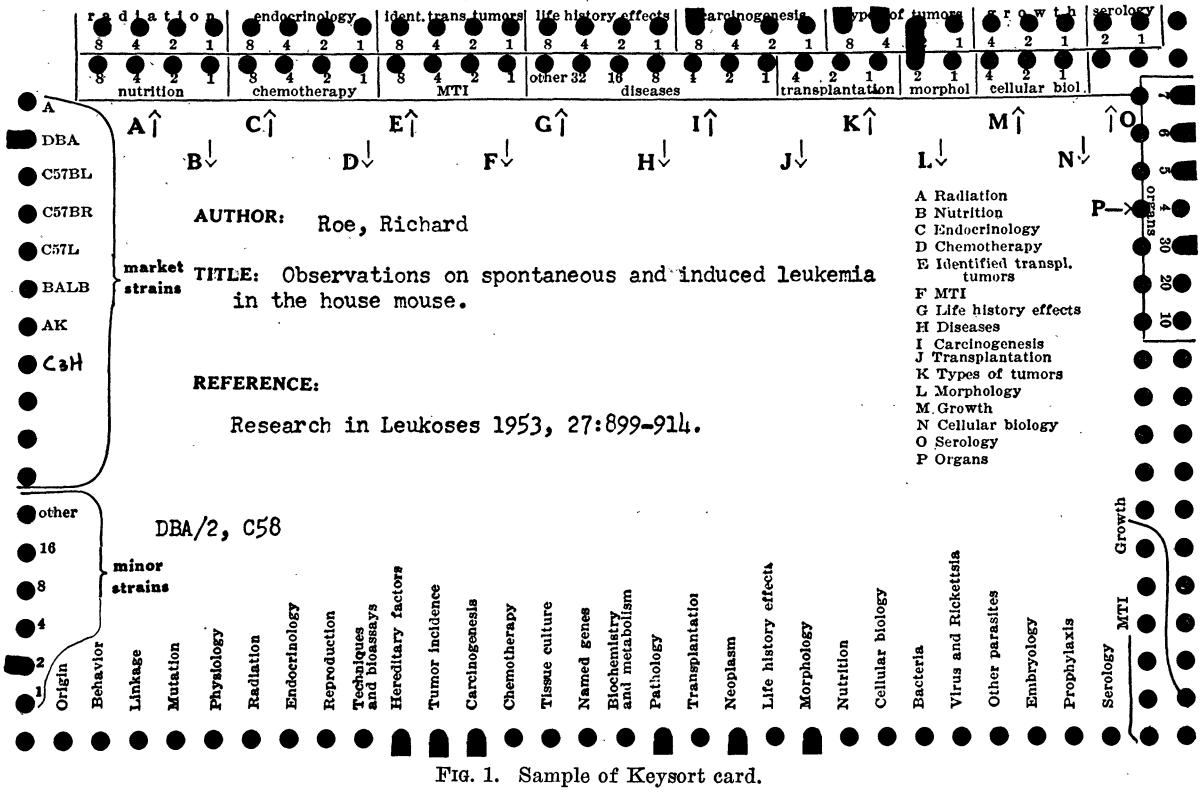

FIG. 1. Sample of Keysort card.