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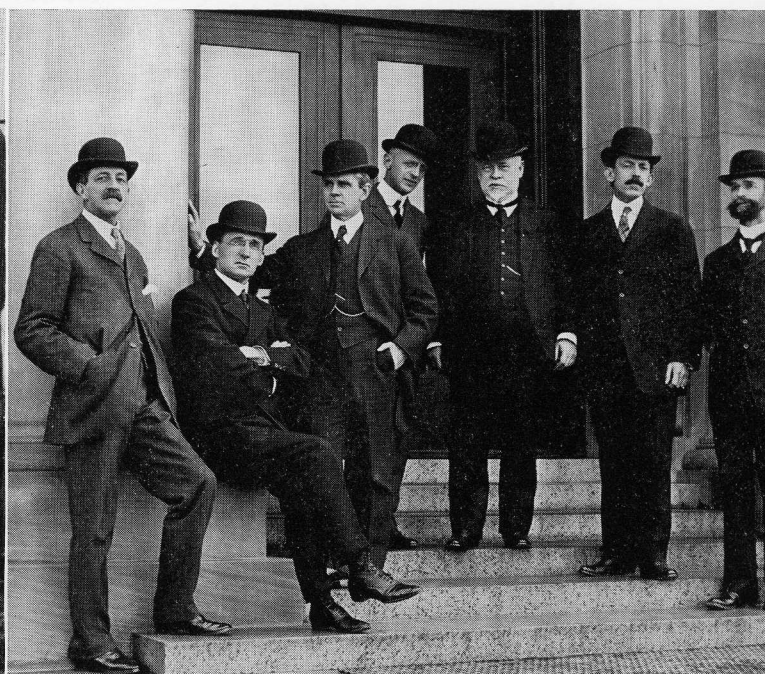
THE ROCKEFELLER UNIVERSITY

news and notes

JANUARY 1976 VOLUME 7 NUMBER 5



Support staff, 1908: left to right, Jim O'Rourke, porter; Patty Burns, engineer; Mrs. Smith, cook; Mr. Smith, janitor; Mr. Sloman (seated), in charge of animal house; Miss Ross, office supervisor; Tom Horton, animal attendant; Carl Steen, porter.



The first board of directors: left to right, T. Mitchell Prudden, Christian A. Herter, L. Emmett Holt, Simon Flexner, William H. Welch, Hermann Biggs, Theobald Smith.

THE UNIVERSITY IS SEVENTY-FIVE

On April 29, 1901, John D. Rockefeller, Jr., acting on behalf of his father, sent a letter to his friend and neighbor, Dr. L. Emmett Holt, in which he wrote: "I desire to put into concrete form the result of our various conversations regarding medical research." A few weeks later, a group of eminent gentlemen gathered in Dr. Holt's office to incorporate The Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research.

The fledgling institution began, as a newspaper editorial of the day put it, "without flourish of trumpets." For the first two years its main activity was the allotment of a few thousand dollars and a title to a small number of researchers in various places. But the interest it aroused, among the general public and within the medical and scientific community, was indicative of the timeliness of its establishment, for no facility then existed in America comparable to the great research centers of Europe. When Frederick T.

Gates, adviser to John D. Rockefeller, first proposed its creation, he spoke of "the overwhelming need and the infinite promise."

In 1903, announcement of the purchase of a permanent site for the Institute was immediately headline news. Even the sober *Journal of the American Medical Association* viewed the event as portentous: "This undertaking, while undoubtedly of the highest significance for New York, is not a project of merely local interest; on the contrary, it is one which is of especial moment to every medical man and woman in the United States. . . ."

The cornerstone for the Institute's

first building, now called Founder's Hall (and now a national landmark), was laid in 1904. The occasion was marked by ceremonies attended by the members of the Board of Scientific Directors. They were among the most distinguished and forward-looking men of science of their day, but not even they could have then imagined the scope and range of the work that would be carried forth and the milestones that would be achieved at the institution they helped to found.

This year The Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research, now The Rockefeller University, marks its 75th birthday. This month, and in succeeding issues throughout the year, *news and notes* will be highlighting the events which will be held in celebration as the men and women of The Rockefeller commemorate a pioneering past, take pride in a vigorous present, and look ahead to a future which continues to offer "infinite promise."

BRONK MEMORIAL

A memorial service for President Emeritus Detlev W. Bronk, who died on November 17, will be held on Wednesday, February 18 at 3 P.M. in Caspary Auditorium.

75th Anniversary

Calendar of Events

Following is a brief summary of special events which will take place on campus during the coming months in celebration of the University's 75th anniversary. Each will be described in detail in *news and notes* as they occur.

—Exhibition of historic photographs from the University's past, beginning in January in the cafeteria. See story, column two.

—Exhibition dramatizing the building of The Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research during its first 50 years using photographs, maps, documents, and memorabilia from the University's archives. Currently on view in the Library. See story on page 3. Further archival material will be added to the Library's display as the year progresses.

—Exhibition relating to the history of the scientific journals published by The Rockefeller University Press. Opening in March in the lobby of the Tower Building.

—Exhibition of historic scientific instruments, many of which were developed at the University. Opening in March in Caspary Gallery.

—"Beyond Tomorrow: Trends and Prospects in Medical Science," an international conference for invited leaders from industry, government, education, and foundations. To be held on March 8 in Caspary Auditorium under the sponsorship of the Rockefeller University Council.

—Reunion of alumni, former associates and faculty, June 6-8.

—An all-campus celebration on June 8 will highlight historical presentations by Vice President Maclyn McCarty, Professor René J. Dubos, historian James Thomas Flexner, and Saul Benison, professor of history, University of Cincinnati.

NIH GRANTS HEARINGS

The National Institutes of Health Grants Peer Review Study Team will hold public hearings on the peer review system during February in Chicago, San Francisco, and Bethesda. The study team is soliciting written comments and suggestions concerning the peer review system from all interested parties. They should be sent to Dr. Mathilde Solowey, Executive Secretary, NIH Grants Peer Review Study Team, Room 4A35, Building 31, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, Maryland 20014.

Exhibiting A Proud Past

The pictures reproduced in this month's *news and notes* are images of a historic past. They are from a group of exhibitions that will be on view in various locations on campus, starting this month, as part of the University's 75th anniversary celebration.

An exhibition to be mounted in the cafeteria in January tells the story of the University's people in an evocative sampling of photographs chosen to represent a cross section of the hundreds of men and women who have contributed to the vitality and accomplishments of this institution.

After The Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research opened its first permanent building, in 1906, the members of the first board of directors—Hermann M. Biggs, Simon Flexner, Christian A. Herter, L. Emmett Holt, T. Mitchell Prudden, Theobald Smith, and William H. Welch (affectionately known as "Popsy")—grouped themselves on the steps of the new building and proudly posed for a photograph. Their individual interests ranged the fields of clinical practice, public health, bacteriology, pathology, and biochemistry; but they shared the belief that scientific research, pursued in an environment of freedom and support, was essential to the future of medicine and human welfare. Their photograph, and those of many others who were to share and justify their belief, grace the cafeteria's walls, among them: Hideo Noguchi, Flexner's brilliant protégé in bacterial studies; physiologist Herbert Gasser, who succeeded Flexner as director of the Institute; Rufus Cole, first director of the Hospital; Peyton Rous, who waited half a century for the world to catch up with his cancer virus discoveries; Alexis Carrel, magician suturer; Louise Pearce, pioneer in sleeping sickness treatment, and anatomist-histologist Florence Sabin, major contributors in fields not notably hospitable to women; Karl Landsteiner, classifier of blood groups and father of modern immunology. Gasser, Rous, Carrel, and Landsteiner were to win Nobel prizes for their work.

Also represented are P. A. T. Levene, the Institute's first biochemist; Eugene Opie, a major figure in diabetes research; the great early physiologists Jacques Loeb and W. J. V. Osterhout; Carl Ten Broeck, for 20 years director of the Institute's Laboratory of Animal and Plant Pathology, and his distinguished colleague Louis Kunkel; the bacteriologist-physiologist-biochemist Wayne Woolley, blind through most of

the years of his prodigious output; Wendell Stanley, co-winner with John Northrop of the Nobel prize for their enzyme studies; A. E. Cohn, cardiac researcher and man of letters who left his superb personal library to the Institute; three who made invaluable contributions to virology, Peter Olitsky, Richard Shope, first to discover the cause of influenza, and Frank Horsfall.

Oswald Avery, who, with Colin McCleod and Maclyn McCarty, first demonstrated that DNA is the substance that transmits heredity, stands at attention in his World War I uniform. In group photos of that early period may be seen, also, Alphonse Dochez, discoverer of scarlet fever antitoxin, Donald D. Van Slyke, biochemist, physiologist, and ingenious inventor of scientific apparatus; and Samuel Meltzer, the Institute's first physiologist. Meltzer had left Germany many years before because university appointments were forbidden there to Jews. After a long career in medicine, he joyfully gave it up and joined the recently founded Rockefeller Institute in order finally to pursue the research he loved. Physical chemist Duncan MacInnes, who bequeathed to the Institute his little country cottage, is shown in a photograph of his laboratory group in the 1940s, which includes the late Gertrude Perlmann.

Thomas Rivers, director of the Hospital from 1937 to 1955, courageous investigator of the highly infectious and lethal parrot fever disease, director of the first mass trials of the Salk vaccine, and commanding officer of a World War II medical research unit, poses in his Naval uniform with his Hospital staff. Physicist Theodore Berlin, whose tragic early death cut short a brilliant career, represents one of the disciplines which broadened the Institute's intellectual base when it became a graduate university.

The life of research has always depended upon the assistance and special skills of many people. In the early years, the ladies of media and glassware wore high-necked shirtwaists with leg-o'-mutton sleeves; the librarians wore gloves, and the nurses' uniforms allowed no leg to show. The costumes have changed, but the quality of service remains. A 1908 photograph shows the Institute's entire support staff of eight members. As the Institute grew in size and complexity, so did the staff—carpenters, engineers, painters, instrument makers, office workers, laun-

continued on next page

dry workers, kitchen workers, guards, and groundkeepers.

Very recently, the University has been saddened by the deaths of Lyman C. Craig, Alfred E. Mirsky, Edward L. Tatum, and Detlev W. Bronk. Their familiar faces lend a note of poignancy to the exhibition. Dr. Bronk appears, appropriately, in a photograph of the first graduating class of The Rockefeller University, which evolved, under his leadership, from The Rockefeller Institute in its third quarter-century.

Building An Institute

Sarah Jones, who married Peter Schermerhorn in 1804, inherited from her father the southerly portion of what was called the Louvre farm, 132 acres from Third Avenue to the East River and from 66th to 75th Street, with a summer house on 67th Street overlooking the river. Later, her husband purchased 20 acres of the Hardenbrook farm, south to 64th Street where the farmhouse, built in 1747, stood. Over the years, the Schermerhorn land came to know other tenants and other uses both before and after its acquisition by The Rockefeller Institute. These included a couple of breweries, the Pastime Athletic Club, a swimming pavilion, the Sea Breeze school, where ailing children breathed the bracing river air, the playgrounds of the Lenox Hill Association, and the garden plots that were cultivated by generations of neighborhood children.

In 1902, John D. Rockefeller bought a large portion of the tract and, in June 1904, deeded it to the medical

In the library, c. 1908



State of New York.

No. 1353.

Int. 1054.

IN ASSEMBLY,

March 15, 1904.

Introduced by Mr. LEOPOLD—read once and referred to the committee on Affairs of Cities.

AN ACT

That no street, road or avenue be opened through lands owned or occupied by the Rockefeller institute for medical research, between East Sixty-fifth and East Sixty-seventh streets.

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

- 1 Section 1. No street, road or avenue shall hereafter be laid out
- 2 or opened through or upon any part of the lands and premises
- 3 lying between East Sixty-fifth street and East Sixty-seventh street
- 4 and Exterior street and a line drawn parallel with the easterly
- 5 line of Avenue A and distant three hundred feet easterly there-
- 6 from, in the city of New York, whenever and so long as the same
- 7 shall be owned or occupied by the Rockefeller institute for medi-
- 8 cal research, its successors or assigns, except with the consent
- 9 of the owner or owners thereof; provided, however, that nothing

EXPLANATION—Matter underscored is new; matter in brackets () is old law to be omitted.

From the library's current exhibit

research institute he had founded three years earlier, which was making its temporary headquarters in the Nursery and Child's Hospital at 127 East 50th Street. An act of the state legislature closed 66th Street as a public thoroughfare that same year, and ground was broken for the first building of The Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research.

During this 75th anniversary year, the history of this once pastoral, now world famous stretch of ground is being retold through photographs, maps, documents, and other memorabilia from the University's archives in an exhibition on view in the Library. Included are the map marking the boundaries of the old Louvre farm, the act of the State Legislature closing 66th Street, and the text of the notes—sealed in the Founder's Hall cornerstone—which listed the names of the board and of the officers of the young institution and the scanty facts of its short existence. A 1911 photograph shows the first small animal house and power house, built with Founder's Hall but destined to become obsolete and disappear within a few years. A river view of 1913 shows the breweries still in business and the Schermerhorn farm house still standing.

The Hospital was built next, and the Isolation Building, later to become the Nurses' Residence; then Flexner Hall and new animal quarters, and Smith Hall. During World War I, a war demonstration hospital was erected where Alexis Carrel taught the Carrel-Dakin method for surgical and chemical treatment of wounds.

Avenue A became York Avenue in 1927, following some debate over whether it should be called Pasteur Avenue, Lister Avenue, or Yorkville Drive. Exterior Street, briefly known as Marie Curie Avenue during the 1930s, gave way to the FDR Drive. And The Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research kept growing.

The Library's exhibition will remain on view throughout the year, during which other historical materials from the archives will be added.

PERSONALS

Porter **Milton Hemmitt**, who was with the University since 1967, retired on December 31. Since 1969, he has been, to the staff of the University Library, "a most valued friend and helper."

DEATHS

Lewis K. Dahl, 60, hospital chief of staff of the Medical Research Center of Brookhaven National Laboratory, on November 26. A leader in the field of hypertension research, Dr. Dahl worked at Rockefeller from 1948 to 1952 with Dr. Donald D. Van Slyke and as an Institute assistant and an assistant physician at the Hospital.

Miriam Benjamin, 51, on December 17. She had been with the University since 1970 as a laboratory helper, most recently in the laboratory of Professor Edward Reich. Mrs. Benjamin's husband and four children have asked *news and notes* to extend their heartfelt thanks to those at the University who contributed to a fund for the family which was organized by Josefina Roberts and Lascelle Mighty, Mrs. Benjamin's coworkers.

ARCHIVE CONFERENCE

The Rockefeller Archive Center, which opened this fall, held its first conference on December 5 for an invited audience of historians and other members of the academic community. The topic discussed was The Scholar's Right to Know vs. the Individual's Right to Privacy. Speakers were Robert Rosenthal, director of special collections, University of Chicago; Daniel Reed, assistant archivist for presidential libraries, National Archives and Records Service; John E. Lockwood, retired chairman, board of trustees, New York Public Library; and Norman A. Graebner, director, Freedoms Program, Pennsylvania State University.

Theodosius Dobzhansky

1900-1975

Professor Emeritus Theodosius Dobzhansky, world renowned geneticist and member of The Rockefeller University faculty since 1962, died on December 18 in Davis, California, where he had been serving as an adjunct professor at the University of California since 1971. He was 75 years old.

Dr. Dobzhansky was born in Nemirov, Russia, on January 25, 1900. He received his early training as a naturalist at the University of Kiev, from which he was graduated in 1921 and where he taught for three years. From 1924 to 1927, he was a lecturer at the University of Leningrad. He came to the United States in 1927 to work at Columbia University as a fellow of the International Education Board of the Rockefeller Foundation. He taught and conducted research at the California Institute of Technology from 1929 to 1940. He returned to Columbia as a professor of zoology, remaining there until he joined the Rockefeller faculty.

In his genetic research, Dr. Dobzhansky pioneered the use of fruit flies, which proved to be excellent research animals because of their relatively simple genetic structure and short generational span. Beginning with *Genetics and the Origin of Species*, first published in 1937, he authored many books which have become classics in the study of evolution. Among his many awards and honors, which included 19 honorary degrees, were the National Medal of Science, the nation's highest science award, and the Daniel Giraud Elliot Medal of the National Academy of Sciences. He is survived by a daughter, Sophie Coe.



At the Faculty Wives' holiday tea: left to right, Beatrice Shedlovsky, Santa Marilyn Zinder, and Elizabeth Wilson.

BRIEFS

Professors **Dennis M. Dwyer** and **Araxie Kilejian** and Research Associate **Kwang Poo Chang**, Parasitology, presented papers at the 50th anniversary meeting of the American Society of Parasitologists, held November 10-14 in New Orleans. Dr. Dwyer also participated in a Symposium on Immunology of Trypanosome Infections.

President Seitz spoke on the Need for Private Foundations to Support Research at a seminar on New Horizons of Science held November 12 at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, under the sponsorship of the Council for the Advancement of Science Writing.

Professor **Jules Hirsch**, Human Behavior and Metabolism, received the Doctor Chaim Yassky Award, presented by the New York chapter of Hadassah on November 16. Dr. Hirsch was cited for his notable achievements in medicine and for the help he has given to Hadassah medical efforts in Israel.

Professor **René J. Dubos**, Environmental Biomedicine, was awarded the Cullum Geographical Medal of the American Geographical Society on November 24.

Professor **Neal E. Miller**, Physiological Psychology, was elected an honorary life member of the New York Academy of Sciences at the academy's annual meeting held December 3.

Adjunct Professor **Emanuel R. Piore**, former vice president and chief scientist of International Business Machines, was one of three recipients of the 1975 Morris J. Kaplun International Prize of the Hebrew University in Jerusalem.

William O. Baker, vice chairman of the board of trustees, has been named chairman of an advisory committee to study national policy implications of new advances in science and technology, one of two 15-member advisory groups appointed by President Ford to facilitate planning for a proposed new White House Office of Science and Technology Policy. Also on the committee is **Patrick E. Haggerty**, chairman of the University's board. **President Seitz** has been appointed to the other committee, under the chairmanship of Simon Ramo, which will be considering the role of technology in the national economy.

Cell Biology Meeting

Some 35 Rockefeller scientists participated in the 15th annual meeting of the American Society for Cell Biology, held in San Juan, Puerto Rico, November 11-14. Professor Christian de Duve addressed a special luncheon meeting on the subject What Has Cell Biology Done for Us Lately in Scientific Medicine and What Are the Future Hopes? Professors Günter Blobel, Nam-Hai Chua, and Samuel Silverstein served on the program committee.

PROMOTIONS

Peter R. Sinclair, Biochemistry, and **Elaine L. Wilson**, Chemical Biology, to assistant professors, effective October 1.

Gerd Grieninger, Biochemistry, and **Roland Henning**, Developmental and Molecular Biology, to assistant professors, effective November 1.

Sidney Strickland, Chemical Biology, to assistant professor, effective January 1.

NEUROSCIENCES MEETING

Professor Bruce S. McEwen, Physiological Psychology, chaired and spoke at a symposium on Binding of Neurotransmitters and Hormones by Neural Receptors at the 5th annual meeting of the Society for Neuroscience, held November 2-6 in New York, at which some 30 Rockefeller scientists presented papers. Professor Neal E. Miller serves as chairman of the society's Committee on Public Information.

APPOINTMENTS

Steven Blobstein, Medical Biochemistry, as assistant professor, effective December 1.

Kikuru Fukushima, Neurophysiology, **James Jensen**, Parasitology, and **Juhani Paakkanen**, Bacteriology and Immunology, as research associates, effective January 1.

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