

11-1976

NEWS AND NOTES 1976, VOL.8, NO.2

The Rockefeller University

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Recommended Citation

The Rockefeller University, "NEWS AND NOTES 1976, VOL.8, NO.2" (1976). *News and Notes 1976*. Book 7.
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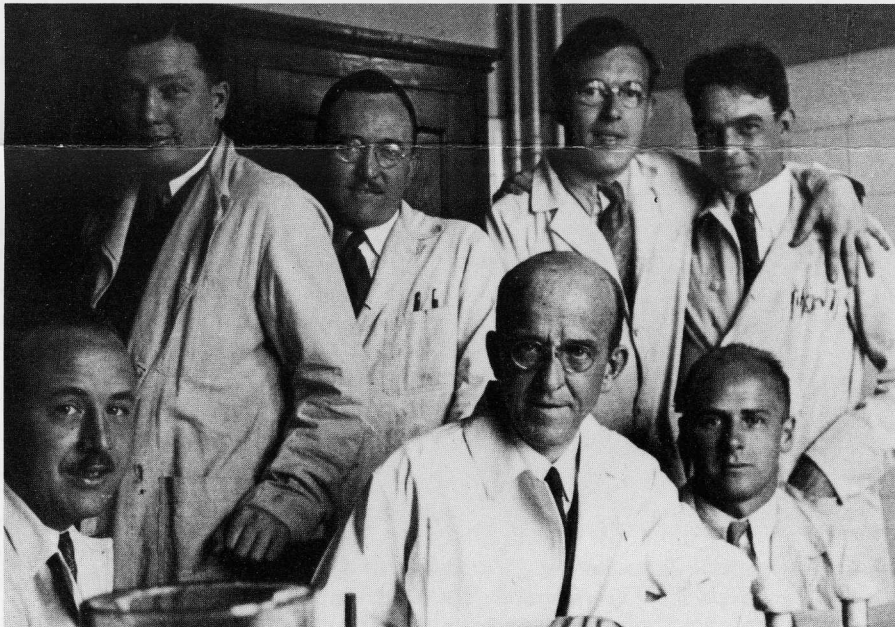


THE ROCKEFELLER UNIVERSITY

news and notes

NOVEMBER 1976 VOLUME 8 NUMBER 2

New Dubos Book on "The Professor"



Oswald Avery's laboratory, c. 1932. Left to right: seated, Thomas Francis, Jr., Avery, Walther F. Goebel; standing, Edward E. Terrell, Kenneth Goodner, René J. Dubos, Frank H. Babers.

The path that led from nineteenth-century bacteriology to modern molecular biology, as exemplified by the achievements of Oswald T. Avery and The Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research, is the subject of a new book, *The Professor, The Institute, and DNA*, by Professor René J. Dubos, published this month by The Rockefeller University Press.

In 1944, Oswald Avery, known to his Institute colleagues as "The Professor," published with coauthors Colin MacLeod and Maclyn McCarty a paper describing their experiments leading to the demonstration that deoxyribonucleic acid—DNA—is the transmitting substance of heredity, an event since

hailed as "one of the greatest discoveries of biological science in this century." In his book, Dr. Dubos, who began his own career at Rockefeller in 1927 in Avery's laboratory, traces the dual careers of his "two heroes" — Avery and the Institute. The 262-page illustrated volume includes a bibliography and appendixes containing original letters, documents, and other Avery memorabilia.

Avery joined the Institute in 1913, at the age of 36, to work as a bacteriologist with Rufus Cole, director of the Institute's Hospital, on the development of a serum for the treatment of lobar pneumonia (see *news and notes*, October 1976). Until the advent of antibiotics, the Rockefeller serum was the only effective treatment for the disease.

What began as a clinical project grew to a lifetime exploration into the basic nature of life processes. Avery spent 35 years studying the pneumococcal cell. This seemingly narrow preoccupation — what he called "digging a deep hole in one place" — opened up vast areas in

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Archives Get Papers of John D. Rockefeller

The papers of John D. Rockefeller, Sr., comprising 800,000 items dating from 1839 to 1937, have been given by his grandsons to the Rockefeller Archive Center and are now available for study by qualified scholars. They include financial records, correspondence, and scrapbooks of press clippings covering personal, business, and philanthropic activities.

The Rockefeller Archive Center, located in Pocantico Hills, New York, is administered by the University. In addition to the University's archives, it contains the archives of The Rockefeller Foundation from 1913 to 1941, the General Education Board from 1903 to 1960, and the Bureau of Social Hygiene from 1911 to 1939.

Award to Ratliff

Professor Floyd Ratliff, Biophysics, received the 1976 Edgar D. Tillyer Award of the Optical Society of America (American Institute of Physics), presented at the society's annual meeting, held October 20 in Tucson. The award, which is presented biennially, cited Dr. Ratliff's contributions to the study of neural interaction in the retina and its role in the processing of visual information.

Dr. Shedlovsky Dies

As this issue of *news and notes* was going to press, word came of the death, on November 5, of Professor Theodore Shedlovsky at the age of 78. Next year he would have celebrated his 50th anniversary at this institution to which he gave so much. An article on the highlights of Dr. Shedlovsky's distinguished career will appear in the December issue.

HOLIDAY PARTY

President and Mrs. Seitz's annual holiday party will be held on Friday, December 10, from 3 to 5 P.M. on the 17th floor of the Tower. All members of the campus community are cordially invited.



Professor Vincent Dole (front row, center) played host to former members of Naval Medical Unit No. 2 at a reunion held on October 9 at the University. The unit was organized during World War II by Thomas M. Rivers, who was then director of the Rockefeller Hospital and who, like Dr. Dole, was a commissioned naval medical officer. Most of the men were young corpsmen during

the war. About 100 members survive of the original group of some 200. At least half of them continued in medicine or research. They have been meeting every three years since the end of the war. Of those above, photographed on the steps of the Hospital, some came from as far away as Texas, Louisiana, Nebraska, North Carolina, Illinois, Michigan, and Arkansas.

IN PRINT

Professor Paul F. Crane's three major areas of interest—cardiac physiology, history of science, and scientific editing—are represented in three new publications.

The Electrophysiology of the Heart, written with Adjunct Professor B. F. Hoffman and originally published in 1960, has been reissued by Futura Publishing Company. (A Russian edition appeared in 1962 and a Japanese edition is currently in preparation.)

Working as a medical historian, Dr. Crane recently identified a previ-

ously unknown edition of Claude Bernard's *Introduction à la Étude de la Médecine Expérimentale* (Introduction to the Study of Experimental Medicine). "This famous work," states Dr. Crane, "has, virtually since its publication in 1865, been regarded as one of the most influential analyses of the relationship between medicine and scientific research ever written. It is also regarded as a masterpiece of French prose. It was remarkable, therefore, to locate a possibly unique printed copy of a book that is almost certainly a true second edition, revised by Bernard himself, apparently intended to serve as a foreword to his *Principes de Médecine Expérimentale*. Since Bernard never finished the *Principes*, the entire edition of the revised version, with the exception of one or two copies, appears to have been destroyed in the 1890s." The book has been published in facsimile by The New York Academy of Medicine, with Dr. Crane's analysis of the changes made by Bernard in revising the book.

Dr. Crane, who is editor of the *Journal of General Physiology* and a former editor of the *Bulletin of the New York State Society for Medical Research* and of the *Bulletin of the New York Academy of Medicine*, is one of 10 contributors to the volume *The Scientific Journal: Editorial Policies and Practices*, edited by Lois DeBakey.

Lend A Hand

Volunteers are needed to help with the organization and management of the annual gift fund through which the University's professional community expresses its thanks to the many employees whose back-up services make the work of the institution possible. The job is small but the appreciation of those who have taken on this responsibility each year would be great. Those willing to lend a hand are asked to call Bruce Knight on extension 1534. You will be contributing to a time-honored tradition.

Newsletter Started

A new publication, the *Quarterly of the Institute for Comparative Human Development*, was launched in September, published by The Rockefeller University Press.

The Institute for Comparative Human Development is under the direction of Professor William S. Hall, a member of the University's laboratory of comparative human cognition, headed by Professor Michael Cole. The Institute's major function is to train professionals in basic, comparative research techniques derived from psychology, anthropology, linguistics, and sociology as they relate to issues of cognition. It also serves as an information center for scholars concerned with problems of population difference in cognition performance.

In the editorial statement of purpose in the September issue, Doctors Cole and Hall explain: "The notion of using naturally occurring contrasts between human groups to find out more about people in general is an old one. . . . What seems new at this juncture in the history of the social sciences is an intense and growing interest in understanding the significance of group differences as a problem of basic research, as well as a necessary accompaniment to applications of that research in the areas of mental health and education."

The 10-page newsletter has been designed to include a mix of empirical and theoretical papers and an annotated bibliography.

CELL BIOLOGY CONGRESS

The First International Congress on Cell Biology was held September 5–10 in Boston, under the sponsorship of the American Society for Cell Biology. A supplement to the August issue of the *Journal of Cell Biology*, published by The Rockefeller University Press, was devoted to the abstracts of the papers presented at the meetings, including 21 papers by Rockefeller scientists. (A 500-page volume of the symposium papers presented at the congress will be published by the Press in the fall of 1977.)

APPOINTMENTS

As research associates: **Nancy Jean Haley**, Biochemical Cytology, effective August 15; **Shridhar Damle**, Biochemistry, effective October 1; and **Klavs Berzins**, Cell Biology, effective November 1.

Hideyo Noguchi Centennial

This month marks the hundredth anniversary of the birth of Hideyo Noguchi, a world-honored bacteriologist, who worked at The Rockefeller University from 1904 until his premature death in 1928, caused by one of the diseases he sought to understand and conquer.

Noguchi's life reads like a novel. He was born the son of poor rice farmers in an obscure village in Japan. A childhood accident crippled his left hand. A

spirochetes. His mastery of the technical means of cultivation was of great importance in his subsequent discoveries. He demonstrated the connection between Oroya fever and verruca peruviana, making a major contribution to the understanding of Carrión's disease, a serious problem in South America. These and other achievements brought him world fame and honor. But the greatest prize Noguchi sought—the



Left, Noguchi c. 1920. Right, Japanese TV crew films Noguchi documentary at University.

keen mind brought him to the attention of the local school authorities, and a local doctor, who restored some mobility to his hand, turned the young boy toward medicine. In 1899, two years after working his way through Tokyo Medical College, he met Simon Flexner, a professor of pathology at the University of Pennsylvania, who was passing through Japan on a medical mission. By this time, the ambitious neophyte had determined on a life of medical research. In 1900, he came to the United States and presented himself to Flexner. A lifelong association had begun.

Flexner secured a post for Noguchi with a neurologist, Dr. Silas Weir Mitchell, for whom he performed outstanding research on snake venom. This led to a fellowship at the Serologic Institute in Copenhagen, where he worked in close association with Thorvald Madsen. In 1904, Noguchi joined the newly formed Rockefeller Institute, which was under Flexner's direction.

During his Rockefeller years, Noguchi made many important contributions to the understanding of microorganisms. He was the first to demonstrate that paresis resulted from syphilis and the first to grow pure cultures of

conquest of yellow fever—was to elude him. The distinctions between bacteria and viruses were still not clearly established and Noguchi was led along some false trails. When his early, promising findings proved erroneous, he pursued his prey to Africa, where an epidemic was raging. In the midst of his work there, he himself contracted the fever and died at the age of 51.

A collection of Hideyo Noguchi photographs and memorabilia from The Rockefeller University Archives is on exhibit in the University Library, beginning this month.

At the invitation of the Hideyo Noguchi Memorial Association in Tokyo, President and Mrs. Frederick Seitz went to Japan this month to participate in a celebration of Noguchi's centennial.

USIA TOUR FOR DUBOS

This month, Professor René J. Dubos begins a two-month lecture tour of Japan, the USSR, Romania, Italy, and France, under the auspices of the United States Information Agency. He will be speaking on the role of science in creative adaptations to the problems of the future.

PROMOTIONS

Michael Mautner, Physical Chemistry, to assistant professor, effective September 1.

Harry Sticker, Experimental High-Energy Physics, to assistant professor, effective July 1.

PERSONALS

Born, September 14, to Professor **Joel E. Cohen**, Populations, and his wife, Audrey, a daughter, Zoe, their first child.

Born, August 14, to Production Editor **Lawrence Meyer**, Journals, and his wife, JoAnne, a daughter, Jessica, their first child.

DEATHS

Antonia Bekassy, 62, on September 25, a chambermaid-cleaner who worked at the University for the past 18 years.

Reolena Edwards, 65, on July 26, a cleaner at the Hospital from 1948 to 1973.

Karl Kleinart, 76, on July 9. He joined the University in 1950 and retired from his post as a fireman in the Power House in 1966.

Mary Patterson, 75, on August 7, a chambermaid-cleaner from 1950 to 1969.

Committees Formed On Safety, Biohazards

A new committee has been formed to coordinate problems of safety throughout the University. Its members are Professor Te Piao King, Paul R. Penn-dorf, superintendent of buildings and grounds, Professor Charles M. Peterson, Paul Rosen, electronics shop affiliate, and James J. Stewart, superintendent of purchases and chief pharmacist. The Safety Committee held its first meeting on September 17 to discuss such areas, or hazards, as fire, chemicals, radioactive materials, plumbing, electrical equipment, and other areas of the physical plant where problems of safety may arise. In the coming months, the committee will be consulting with members of the University community for information and suggestions.

The Safety Committee will be working closely with the Isotope Committee, under Professor Vincent G. Allfrey, and the newly formed Biohazards Committee, under Professor Margeris A. Jesaitis.

Come to the Fair

Christmas shoppers take note: a large selection of adult and children's books, calendars, and other gift items—all new, many discounted, and all exempt from sales tax—will be on sale at the second annual Rockefeller University Children's School Book Fair, to be held November 30 and December 1 and 2 in the Tower lobby. It's a chance to save time and money and to help the Children's School, too.

HOLIDAY BALL

The Rockefeller University Holiday Ball will be held on Friday, December 17, from 8:30 P.M. to 1 A.M. on the 17th floor of the Tower. Music will be by Lester Lanin, and dress is optional. Tickets, at \$5 per person, will be on sale in Purchasing and the Pharmacy and at the Founder's Hall reception desk.

NEW DUBOS BOOK *continued from page 1*

the understanding of the structure, chemical composition, and physiological activity of the cell, and of immunology and genetics.

In addition to detailed description and analysis of Avery's scientific contributions, Dr. Dubos presents a moving portrait of Avery the man. To his fellow scientists and to the many gifted protégés whom he nurtured and helped to launch on their own distinguished careers, "The Professor" was a warm and witty friend and a generous mentor. A Spartan servant of science, he lived a quiet bachelor's life. But the man they knew gave little indication of the young Avery. Dr. Dubos brings to life the feisty, undersized minister's son who grew up in the hurly-burly of New York's Lower East Side playing the cornet, the Colgate undergraduate, nicknamed "Babe," who loved debating but who avoided all science subjects in his studies, and the young physician who gave up the secure world of private practice for the uncharted realm of research. Oswald Avery retired from The Rockefeller Institute in 1948 and died in Nashville, Tennessee, in 1955 at the age of 78.

Dr. Dubos closes his final chapter with these words: "Those who have known The Professor admire him for what he composed as a scientist: but they remember him even more vividly for the art with which he composed his character and his life."

The Professor, The Institute, and DNA was edited by Helene J. Jordan and designed by Reynard Biemiller.

BRIEFS

Professor **Merrill W. Chase**, Immunology and Hypersensitivity, spoke on his current work on heated and native tuberculins, before the Tuberculosis Panel of the U.S.-Japan Cooperative Medical Science Program, in Tokyo on September 20. He gave a lecture on Mechanisms of Experimental Contact Dermatitis and a seminar at the University of Hawaii, Honolulu, September 27.

Professor **Zofia Kurylo-Borowska** and Guest Investigator **Joy Heaney-Kieras**, Biochemical Genetics, presented a paper on the Structure of Edeine Synthetase at the Tenth International Congress of Biochemistry, held in Hamburg, July 25-31. They also gave a paper on the In Vivo Effect of the Peptide Antibiotic Ediene A on HeLa Cells in Suspension Culture, at the American Society for Biological Chemists in San Francisco, June 6-10.

Professor **Paul F. Crane**field addressed the Fifth Triennial Meeting of The International Academy of the History of Medicine, held at Yale University on September 3. He spoke on The Bell-Magendie Controversy: Why Study Polemics about Priority? Last August, Dr. Crane field lectured at the Biophysics Institute of the University of Copenhagen on Action Potentials, Afterpotentials, and Arrhythmias.

Robin LeSueur, librarian, has been elected chairman of the New York Regional Group of the Medical Library Association for the 1976-77 academic year.

For the third year in a row, **Reynard Biemiller** and The Rockefeller University Press have received a graphic arts award from the Printing Industries of America, Inc. for design and production of the *Report of the President*.

Professor **Neal E. Miller**, Physiological Psychology, was an invited lecturer at the 84th Annual Convention of the American Psychological Association, held September 3-7 in Washington, D.C. He spoke on Teaching the Process of Basic Science. He also participated in a symposium on Nonpharmacologic Approaches to the Treatment of Hypertension: A Behavioral View. In October he was an invited lecturer at the University of Hilo, Hawaii, Sophia University in Tokyo, the University of Tokyo, and Doshisha University in Kyoto.

RU Council Meets

Clinical research programs at the Hospital and current work by the University's parasitology laboratory toward the development of a malaria vaccine were the topics presented to the Rockefeller University Council at a meeting on October 18.

Trustee James A. Linen, council chairman, and President Seitz welcomed members at the all-day session held in Caspary Auditorium. Professor Attallah Kappas, physician-in-chief of the Hospital, introduced the work of the Clinical Research Center, Professor and Senior Physician Edward H. Ahrens, Jr., addressed the group on Cholesterol: Bane or Boon?, and Professor and Senior Physician Vincent P. Dole spoke on the Human Problems of Addiction and Alcoholism. Professor William Trager, head of the parasitology laboratory, talked about the Culture of Human Malaria Parasites and Their Possible Use in a Vaccine against Malaria.

The Rockefeller University Council, founded three years ago, is an advisory group of leaders in industry, public affairs, education, and the professions who assist the University in increasing public understanding of its programs and objectives. There are currently 72 members. Newly elected this fall for a three-year term were: Anthony J. A. Bryan, president, Cameron Iron Works, Inc., Houston; Edward W. Carter, chairman, Carter Hawley Hale Stores, Inc., Los Angeles; Charles H. Dyson, chairman, Dyson-Kissner Corporation, New York; Richard L. Gelb, president, Bristol-Myers Company, New York; and Faye Sarofim, Faye Sarofim & Company, Houston.

Robert Phillips Dies

Robert Allan Phillips, a public health leader and research scientist best known for his contributions to the treatment of cholera, died on September 20 at the age of 70. Dr. Phillips was associated with the Rockefeller from 1940 to 1946. He worked closely with chemist Donald D. Van Slyke, with whom he developed a simple method for measuring the specific gravity of blood and plasma. He also helped to develop improved clinical techniques for the treatment of kidney failure. During World War II, he was a member of the Rockefeller Institute's Naval Medical Research Unit, and after the war, he headed the Navy's Medical Research Unit in Taiwan until his retirement in 1965.