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Division of Finance

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MONTHLY SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES

September 1948

Excerpt

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October 1948

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VII - BIOLOGY AND MEDICINE

Radiological Warfare

The Division of Biology and Medicine has made arrangements with the University of Chicago to use the facilities of its Toxicity Laboratory for making studies of the biological and medical aspects of radiological warfare. Plans are being made to deliver zirconium and columbium fission products to the laboratory for these studies.

Test Site Resurveys

The Alamosa resurvey for 1948 was completed as far as field work is concerned. Study of the 1948 survey material from Bikini and Eniwetok was begun at the University of Washington and at the University of California, Los Angeles.

Biological Research

ANL reports an interesting observation of the relation between dose rate and effects of radiation upon chickens. It was found that a dose rate of 4 roentgens per minute (up to a total dose of 1,200 r) resulted in death of the animals only after several days. If the rate is increased threefold, to 12 r/min (same total dose), the animals die on the first and second days following exposure. This study, one of the few thus far on fowls, represents a segment of a broad research effort to learn the relation of dose and time.

Health Physics

An analytical procedure has been developed at ANL which will determine the presence of promethium in urine. The method, involving extraction by an organic solvent, concentration and counting, may be of significance in the periodic monitoring of workers in production centers.

Advisory Committee

The Advisory Committee for Biology and Medicine, meeting in Washington September 11, 1948, recommended the approval of grants for three new research projects: "Radiomedicine Research" (MIT), "Intermediary Metabolism on Carbohydrates by Bacteria" (Western Reserve) and "Establishment of Radioisotopic Unit for Instruction, Research and Therapy" (Northwestern University).

Training Fellowships

Twenty-one pre- and postdoctoral fellowships in biology were awarded during September, raising to a total of 74 the fellowships granted thus far in biology and medicine. The National Research Council has made the first awards in health physics to 20 technical fellows for one year's training, beginning November 1, at ORNL and the University of Rochester.

University of Rochester

Construction started on the structure training building at the University of Rochester September 1, 1948, is the scheduled completion date.



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