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MONTHLY STATUS AND PROGRESS REPORTS

JANUARY 1949

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ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION

February 1949

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ORGANIZATION & MANAGEMENT
Not by Report Summary

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APPOINTMENTS

Appointments

(1) Dr. John Z. Powers, Assistant Secretary, Assistant to the Director, as well as Chief of the Medical Branch, has been appointed Deputy Director of the Division of Biological Sciences, effective January 23, 1949.

(2) Dr. Lawrence B. Latta, formerly Professor of Pathology and Medicine as Assistant Chief, Medical Branch, has been appointed Chemist and radiochemist at the Radiation Laboratory, University of California, and served with the Army Ordnance Department with the Radiation Branch.

(3) Mr. John H. Simons, formerly Assistant Secretary, has been appointed as an advertising expert, has been appointed as consultant to the Division of Biology and Medicine for the purpose of assisting in the preparation of presenting information to the general public relative to the atomic energy defense programs.

(4) Mr. Ward Miller has been appointed as Chief of Biology and Medicine from the Division of Biological Sciences.

Speeches

Dr. Shields Warren delivered an address at the University of Pennsylvania in the month of January. He spoke on January 17 on "The Atomic Energy Branch at the University of Pennsylvania" and "Atomic Energy" and addressed the Cancer Seminar at the University of California Medical School on "The Radiosensitivity of Neoplasms" and "The Radiosensitivity of Neoplasms" before the Chicago Medical Society on "The Atomic Energy Branch" on January 19, 1949.

Dr. John Powers addressed the Chicago Medical Society in the Surgical Surgeon in Chicago on January 25 on "The Atomic Energy Branch" and delivered an address on January 26 before the members of the University of Maryland School of Medicine entitled "Radiation and Atomic Energy".

Dr. James Jensen gave an address before members of the Fertilizer Industry at the University of Washington on "Fertilizer Research and Atomic Energy".

Dr. Bernard Wolf, Director of the Radiation Laboratory, delivered an address on "The Atomic Energy Branch" at the seminar on Radiological Safety being held at the University of California, San Francisco, California.

Meetings and Visits

A meeting was held at the Radiation Laboratory on January 27, 1949, with the laboratory and medical directors of the Radiation Laboratory, University of California, San Francisco, California.

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and Deal attended. The Rochester staff reviewed their research program on January 12 and January 13 was spent in discussing research in biology and medicine or health physics in relation to waste disposal and particle problems.

The Commissioners visited the Argonne National Laboratory on January 21, inspecting all of the facilities including the new reactor, hospital and biology laboratories. Dr. Jensen and Jensen accompanied the Commissioners on the survey.

Dr. Jensen, in company with Mr. Arthur Gorman, Division of Engineering, AEC, conferred with faculty staff members of the Department of Sanitary Engineering at Massachusetts Institute of Technology on January 27 on the possibilities of conducting research on the efficiency of removal of radioactive materials by standard water purification system.

Mr. Deal cooperated with a representative of the Insurance Branch of Atomic Energy Commission by attending a meeting of Casualty Insurance Underwriters in New York on January 15. The handling of radioactive materials was discussed and the insurance problems they pertain thereto. Further discussion of mutual technical problems was held on February 23 in Washington, D. C.

Dr. Lowell Reed, of Johns Hopkins University, discussed the handling of radioactive materials with members of the New York Operations Office Medical Division, in connection with the University's contract for research in sanitary engineering aspects of radioactive waste problems.

Mr. J. H. Tracy visited Argonne National Laboratory and Chicago Operations Office on January 4 and discussed administrative problems in connection with research and accounting of research contracts.

Beryllium

The Committee, composed of Mrs. Mary Percy, Bernard Koff and Joseph Hodge, formed to advise the Director, Division of Biology and Medicine, regarding acceptable working levels for beryllium and clinical procedures, recently held its second meeting.

Fellowships

The annual program of \$2,500,000 for the Energy and Medicine Fellowship Program will maintain a fellowship level of 690 new awards each year consisting of 150 post-doctoral, 150 pre-doctoral, 175 post-graduate in Biology, 175 pre-doctoral in health physics, and 175 post-graduate in Health Physics Technical work.

There have been no fellowships awarded in this program and it is hoped to approximately 1000 in the next year and the remainder of this

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fiscal year. The increasing number of applications indicates that this can probably be accomplished.

Isotopes

Finland and Colombia, South America, have completed arrangements with Oak Ridge Operations Office to be included in the foreign distribution list for free isotopes.

Radiation Hazards

An investigation is being made by Colonel James McCoursey, USA, and Prof. N. L. Bowman, of the hazard connected with the AEC's Washington Building in the event of an air burst of an atomic bomb. Blast, fire and radiation effects are being studied. One suggestion is that the building does not provide sufficient cover (i.e., concrete thickness), to afford full protection against death from radiation, that alterations to provide this protection are impracticable, and that the building should be abandoned in the event of an impending war. A final report will be submitted to the Commission early in February.

Waste Disposal

The General Manager advised the Director of the Division of Biology and Medicine that the Commission recognizes that the responsibility for the waste disposal problem lies jointly with the Division of Engineering and the Division of Biology and Medicine.

Furthermore that: "The Executive supercedes any previous delegations of responsibility in this regard. It is requested that the Division of Biology and Medicine and the Division of Engineering prepare an outline form a statement which will define more specifically their respective proposed activities concerning the waste disposal problem.

"The most immediate action required under the above will be the same collaboration and resulting agreement to affect continued sponsorship as to the specific agenda and papers contemplated for the Public Health Seminar on January 24 and 25. Another immediate action will be that concerning the technical paper which has been the long time standby for presentation to the Commission".

The Division of Biology and Medicine cooperated with the Division of Engineering in preparing a program for a Seminar which was held in Washington on January 24-25, 1949. The purpose of the Seminar was to acquaint the members of various sanitary engineering and water works organizations with the procedures and safeguards as well as some of the problems involved in the disposal of radioactive waste. The persons attending the meeting expressed their desires for more information about our problem and also their willingness to be of assistance in the determination of the solution of waste disposal problems.

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Dr. Warren addressed the Sermon on "Health Problems in Atomic Energy Activities".

Biology

Arrangements have been completed with the Bureau of Plant Industry, Soils and Agricultural Engineering, of the U. S. Department of Agriculture to undertake a research project dealing with the basic aspects of radioactive materials and their application to the study of soils and plant nutrition. Under the terms of the agreement, the Commission will provide funds for the construction of a facility to include a headhouse, greenhouse, controlled temperature and moisture chambers and lysimeter tanks for this research. The contract was placed in operation as of December 1 and building specifications and plans are at present being drawn up.

Applied Bio-Physics

The Applied Bio-Physics Branch has asked for comments from the area managers regarding the possibility of establishing a standard system for reporting radiation exposures at the various AEC installations. The purpose of such a proposal is to develop and maintain pertinent information on radiation exposure for future correlation with medical data. This long-range scientific experiment can be visualized as a necessity for reviewing such records over the next fifty years. A brief summary has been requested of present information available, how records are maintained and copies of various data and reports forms. A report will be made at a later date.

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