

## NEWS FROM SENIOR PHYSIOLOGISTS

**McKeen Cattell** to Edward Adolph:

This is a response to the letter from you and other members of the Society. I hope you are enjoying the joys of laboratory work. As for me, I am quite beyond that but still have an office at Cornell where I continue to do a little writing in connection with the *Journal of Clinical Pharmacology* of which I am an associate editor. In this I get a good deal of satisfaction, but it obviously cannot last forever, especially since my home is in Garrison, N.Y. (where I was born) and is located more than fifty miles from the City and train service is deteriorating. With best wishes to the seven distinguished physiologists signing the letter.

**Richard Whitehead** to Bruce Dill:

I am happy to be living at a time when one can appreciate the advances being made in so many fields of medicine, many of which have long been neglected. I would like to comment on a few items contained in the Medical News paper which were of interest to me. There was an article about studies on melanomas by a former student of mine, Dr. William Robinson. Bill and I are Breckenridge, Colorado natives. Bill's grandparents and parents were pioneers in that mining camp. He is making experimental studies on melanomas. He is a highly regarded pathologist. Also there was an article with the intriguing title of "Operation Cork" which has an important objective to improve alcoholism education of medical students. It is directed by Richard A. Deitrich, a member of my staff (before retirement) and a well-known investigator in the field of fundamental research on alcoholism. Deitrich is a native son of Colorado also. His graduate education and Ph.D. were taken in my department. There are also articles about two former students of mine, Dr. Deane "Skip" Jacques and Dr. Robert Virtue who have made a good record in their respective fields - neurosurgery and anesthesiology. Dr. Virtue has had an illustrious career in anesthesiology research. Both Virtue and Jacques are native Coloradoans and former students of mine. I do not wish to infer that Colorado natives alone have excelled in research. I tend to "boost" natives but you know why.

I must mention some work being done at Colorado which should be of special interest to you - the new spectrometer which measures gas concentrations quickly and accurately. The designer is Al Micco who has worked on it nine years.

I do not get to the mountains as often as I would like but I live where on a clear day I can see Pike's Peak and Long's and all the places where I used to hike and work, fish and just plain enjoy myself.

**John J. Sampson** to Bruce:

I trust that you are continuing in good health and enjoying life in the city that built the Hoover (Boulder) Dam. We visited it first during its construction by means of two friends as tops of two of the eight companies and went into diversion tunnels.

I am now 82, born in 1898. Am still teaching in a consultant capacity on the faculty at the University of California, San Francisco. Not real experimental research but am publishing two articles - now in press - "Compliance in Patients" and a review of the "Intermediate Syndrome." Also see patients daily. The University of California gave me an LLD three years ago. Best regards.

**Samuel E. Pond** to Bruce:

My recent celebration of the 90th birthday was on Cape Cod with my daughter's family. We changed residence in 1973 from near Hartford, Connecticut to East Winthrop, Maine in a lakeside camp in rural, central Maine to enjoy a rather quiet lake-chain country as a retirement home which had been in the family for some time and we used to come here seasonally.

Transferring from teaching and guiding college students (at University of Hartford) to pseudo-academic confrontations in the last decade has added some zest to retirement and exciting at times when technical problems arise in the community area. We have five undergraduate institutions within close reach: Bates, Colby, Bowdoin, Thomas and Augusta branch of the University of Maine. There are continuing opportunities for one's time and skill as with the anti-pollution work in the chain of nine lakes: monitoring, sampling, testing, and consulting.

There are all sorts of personal and public health activities with recreation and rehabilitation work going on in voluntary and organized groups bringing together professional and scientific personnel to advise the elderly and those close to retirement. In our lake-shore area, folks need assistance with wells, sewage and semi-agricultural tasks, and anyone with tools or even a little experience is utilized. We even take care of an active Lighthouse, mechanically and navigationally, within local and state regulations, as boaters and wild-life co-mingle. A yacht club, some 75 years old, requires administrative time and tricks (dues, membership, and reports). Our state (like others) is in need of money from taxes, and much riddled with need for conservation (all forms of energy losses) hence retired taxpayers are utilized to the hilt. Best wishes to APS and all its related branches.

**Edmund Jacobson** to Bruce:

You have very kindly requested that I indicate my present interests. I continue to act as director of the Laboratory for Clinical Physiology, Chicago. Research currently includes the measurement of momentary human energy expenditures in supine adults. The integrating neurovoltmeter developed with the aid of the Bell Telephone Laboratories many years ago is still being used today, now in conjunction with a computer and other modern equipment.

Currently under my direction, Richard Lange and Helene Duda are engaged in investigative measurements on human energy expenditures in adults lying supine while carrying out brief and simple assigned tasks. Black and white adults are employed who state that to their best knowledge and belief they are in good health and who show no signs of any type of malady. The integrating neurovoltmeter employed for action potentials measurements is carefully checked for accuracy in its microvoltage measurements of striated muscle activities involved in a task contrasted with the potentials when the subject has been requested to rest. There are six input channels, each one of which corresponds with an output channel. Following their initiation by Richard Lange, all computer procedures occur automatically. (Oxygen and other gas employed in these measurements have kindly been contributed by Mr. Amir Attari, Assistant Director of Chemical Research of the Illinois Institute of Gas Technology.)

book form. In addition, manuscripts relating to Nature and others relating to metaphysics from a relational standpoint are being completed.

I am President of the National Foundation for Progressive Relaxation and Treasurer of the Foundation for Scientific Relaxation, both non-profit organizations devoted to furthering our investigations.

**Sara E. Huggins to Bruce:**

Now is a good time to write because I am very busy and doing something interesting. At the present time I have a short term contract as a visiting professor at the Federal University of Pernambuco in Recife, Brazil.

My assignment in Recife is to study some aspects of the physiology of the three-toed sloth, *Bradypus tridactylus*. In the past several well known physiologists have spent a pleasant vacation or sabbatical in such studies but there remains much to be learned and the laboratory in which I am working is attempting to answer some of the questions which previous workers have raised. I have two local graduate students working with me and we hope to have their master's theses near completion before I return to Houston in the spring. Their English and my Portuguese are weak and at times both sides are frustrated as only language barriers can make one. On ordinary days, however, we communicate reasonably well in "Portuglaise."

My previous experience with sloths had been very limited and I was surprised to find them attractive and charming little animals and usually very easy to work with in the laboratory. Certainly they are an interesting change from my first love, alligators and their kind.

In the process of going over the literature on the sloth recently, I checked out the third volume of *Science* for the year 1939, that is July-September. I did so intending to read a short communication from Britton and Kline "On Deslothing the Sloth." I realized then that this volume contained the numbers of *Science* for the first three months immediately after I had received my doctorate. For this reason I leafed through, reading, here and there, items which were evocative of another age. There were, of course, obituaries of giants of science of earlier days; there were directions for making laboratory apparatus, now commonly sold commercially; there were hints of scientific developments long since common classroom knowledge; and there were, though surprisingly few, special signs of those very crucial days, such as the announcement of the hiring by American institutions of one or more persons who, judging by origins, must have been fleeing Hitler's regime and the announcement of locations for various colleges of the University of London in evacuating that soon to be dangerous city. There was a short editorial copied from *Nature* explaining why the UK had been forced to declare war. The general commentary deplored the current teaching trends and examined the place of science in society, very familiar themes at all times. As you can well imagine, there was much of a curious kind of interest. One short communication was on the production of luminescence by breaking "Necco" wafers, particularly the wintergreen flavor. That made me wish for a roll of those old candies for eating as well as for testing a scientific fact I did not know.

So far since retirement I have had a small grant and the University of Houston has been very generous in allowing me use of

tional University of Malaysia and to return with him by way of Germany where one of our sons is working. Those plans, even though I am a travel enthusiast, should make home and Houston look very good--for at least six months.

\*APS member, Russell A. Huggins.

**FRED A. HITCHCOCK**  
1889-1980

Word of the death of my long-time friend Fred A. Hitchcock on February 15, 1980 came to me from his good friend of 30 years, Miss Dorothy Mees. She writes that he had been ill for about six months. My wife and I enjoyed Fred's infectious hearty laugh in 1971 when he came to Las Vegas to help celebrate my 80th birthday. A memorial service was held at Ohio State University on March 14, 1980. The reference to his having been on the Society's Council reminds me of his election. The several candidates by several ballots were narrowed to two. In the final vote Fred won over the illustrious Detlev Bronk. This was such a noteworthy event that I wrote about it to the President of Ohio State University acquainting him with how highly his Professor Hitchcock was rated by his colleagues.

Bruce Dill