

Meeting of Informal Committee on Space Medicine

AT THE INVITATION of Andrew C. Ivy, M.D., and Paul A. Campbell, M.D., an informal group met at noon on May 31, 1950, in the Palmer House in Chicago during the annual session of the Aero Medical Association to discuss the organization of a branch or section on Space Medicine as provided for Article III, Section 4 of the Constitution of the Association. Those present included: Edward J. Baldes, Ph.D., Colonel Robert J. Benford, USAF, Brigadier General Otis O. Benson, Jr., USAF, Konrad Büettner, Ph.D., Captain Ashton Graybiel, USN, Victor Guillemin, Jr., Ph.D., Fritz Haber, Ph.D., Heinz Haber, Ph.D., Ulrich K. Henschke, M.D., John P. Marbarger, Ph.D., Hermann J. Schaefer, Ph.D., Colonel Benjamin A. Strickland, Jr., USAF, and Hubertus Strughold, M.D.

Acting as chairman of the meeting, Dr. Ivy, following brief introductory remarks, introduced Dr. Strughold of the USAF School of Aviation Medicine who reviewed the international status of the field of space flight research in a prepared paper. He was followed by Dr. Heinz Haber who outlined certain medical problems peculiar to rocket flying in a manner which well illustrated the need for establishing a special group for Space Medicine, preferably with the Aero Medical Association. Both of these reports were incorporated in the committee's files.

The need and desirability for animal experimentation in rocket flights and the possibility of an affiliation with certain projects now being undertaken by the Armed Forces, was emphasized by General Benson, the Commandant of the USAF School of Aviation Medicine. He pointed out that considerable biological information must be obtained in this manner before manned rocket flight can be accomplished. An inquiry by Dr. Baldes regarding the security classification of such experimental data was answered by both Dr. Ivy and General Benson who expressed the opinions that this information could be made available to interested workers such as those in the Space Medicine group.

Summarizing the need for an organization devoted to Space Medicine, Dr. Campbell pointed out that no such group is now in existence in the United States. Such an organization, he explained, could assist and advise the Armed Forces on Space Medicine problems, disseminate information on pertinent problems which arise, and function as a liaison group between universities, aeronautical engineering firms and federal agencies in the consideration of research projects in this new field of science. Colonel Benford suggested that the group formally petition the Aero Medical Association for a branch membership in Space Medicine. This was put in the form of a motion which was seconded and passed

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by those present.

The group also voted to include the names of other members of the Aero Medical Association who are interested in furthering such research, but were unable to attend the meeting, among the charter members of the Space Medicine Branch if its organization and affiliation with the Association is approved. These include: Major General Harry G. Armstrong, USAF, Louis H. Bauer, M.D., Captain Albert R. Behnke, USN, Dietrich E. Beischer, Ph.D., Captain Leon D. Carson, USN, Bruce Dill, Ph.D., Wallace O. Fenn, Ph.D., Colonel A. P. Gage, USAF, Otto Gauer, M.D., Commander Charles F. Gell, USN,

Rear Admiral Bertram Groesbeck, Jr., USN, F. Gregg Hall, Ph.D., James P. Henry, M.D., Joseph Kaplan, Ph.D., Captain Wilbur E. Kellum, USN, George J. Kidera, M.D., W. Randolph Lovelace, II, M.D., Captain John R. Poppen, USN, Lieutenant Colonel Henry M. Sweeney, USAF, Lieutenant Colonel John M. Talbott, USAF, and Colonel Arnold D. Tuttle, USAF (ret.).

Prior to adjournment, a temporary sub-committee to prepare the necessary petition for Branch Membership was named, consisting of Dr. Ivy, Chairman, Dr. Marbarger, Secretary, Colonel Benford, Dr. Campbell and Captain Graybiel.

National Bureau of Standards, U. S. Department of Commerce, Washington, D. C.

NUCLEAR DATA

A valuable tool for nuclear physicists and engineers, radiochemists, biophysicists, and other workers in the rapidly expanding field of nuclear physics is now available in the tables of "Nuclear Data" recently compiled by the National Bureau of Standards. These tables, which may be obtained from the Government Printing Office, are to be followed by supplements of new material at six-month intervals.

The initial volume of the tables, together with the supplements, will present a comprehensive collection of experimental values of half-lives, radiation energies, relative isotopic abundances, nuclear moments, and cross sections. Decay schemes and level diagrams, over 125 of which are included in the tables now ready, are to be provided wherever possible.

At present over 1,000 new measurements of different nuclear properties are being reported each year in some thirty different journals and in the reports of dozens of different laboratories. The reactor engineer and the industrial or medical user of radioactive tracer materials, as well as the nuclear physicist, are thus in need of a listing of available data which can automatically be kept up-to-date.

All the more recent values of a given nuclear property are listed in the tables. Thus, from the degree of uniformity of the results, the reader can tell at a glance which nuclear constants now appear fairly certain and which are still quite doubtful. The references to over 2,000 original papers make it possible for the research worker to evaluate the details of previous investigations and to design experiments to resolve existing discrepancies.