

TO BE able to fill leisure intelligently is the last product of civilization.—Bertrand Russell.

Finishes Course
Specialist Second Class Robert D. Williams, 23, son of Mr. and Mrs. Nat Williams, 18709 Crenshaw blvd., recently graduated from the field radio repair course at the Army's Southeastern Signal School, Fort Gordon, Ga.
His wife, Grace, lives in Augusta, Ga.

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Cystic Fibrosis Means Death

By RALPH GOMPERTZ

The medical term is cystic fibrosis. Plainly speaking it means: Death.
Cystic fibrosis has an uncommon ring. But its occurrence is only too common.
One out of every 600 children dies of cystic fibrosis. Cystic fibrosis is the greatest childhood killer with the exception of accidents.
While death stalks on, a resident physician in internal medicine at Harbor General hospital is pursuing an idea which he hopes will spell the death knell for this fatal disease.
He is Dr. Jack Lieberman, 31, who had a hunch about the cause of the disease in 1954 and has been pursuing the idea at the hospital's research laboratory.
The disease was first recognized in 1938. Since then it has been found to be the most common cause of death resulting from disease in childhood, Dr. Lieberman pointed out.

What It Is
Cystic fibrosis is characterized by abnormally thick mucus produced by most of the glands of the body.
This mucus causes obstruction of the lungs and repeated infections with frequent episodes of pneumonia, usually followed by the gradual destruction of lung tissue.
The pancreas, one of the organs necessary for normal digestion, may suffer similar obstruction. As a result, poor digestion follows, causing abnormal stools and failure to gain weight despite a ravenous appetite. There is also excessive salt in the sweat of such children.
The disease itself is not contagious, Dr. Lieberman pointed out. Rather it is a hereditary disease. It is transmitted by a recessive gene. If only one parent has it, the disease will not appear.
One out of about 20 individuals carries such a gene but there is no way at present to identify him until the appearance of the disease in a child reveals that both parents have it.

Such parents might expect one out of four children on the average to have the disease.
Cystic fibrosis is sometimes mistaken for chronic diarrhea, chronic whooping cough or chronic pneumonia.

Uncomfortable and Distressing
Cystic fibrosis, while not painful, is uncomfortable and distressing. The disease becomes apparent within a year after birth. Most of the children die by the time they are five. Through the use of anti-biotics some manage to live into their teens. Children gradually have the appearance of extreme wasting, with thin scrawny arms and legs, and a pot-belly.

The physician urged that individuals suspecting the disease in their children contact their family physician.
In order to familiarize physicians in the Harbor and South Bay areas with the disease, as well as to determine its frequency here, Dr. Lieberman, under the auspices of the National Cystic Fibrosis Research foundation, Long Beach district, has sent out a report and questionnaire to all local physicians.

Dr. Lieberman became interested in the problem during a lecture by Dr. Stephen Royce of USC and director of the chest clinic at Children's hospital in Los Angeles.

Dr. Lieberman had an idea as to the disease's cause and when he started his internship at Harbor General hospital, he approached Dr. Royce and Dr. Morris Rockemacher, of the clinical laboratories, at Harbor General hospital.

Both thought his idea a good one and helped him set up a lab, with the cooperation of A. L. Thomas, hospital director, Leonard A. West, MD, medical director, and D. M. teGroen, MD, associate medical director.

It has taken all this time to set up proper facilities for the research project. Funds till now consisted of \$500 from the Research Committee of the Attending Staff assn. of Harbor General hospital and \$1500 from the National Drug co., Philadelphia.

Funds Needed
Now that the program is ready to go into full swing, money is one of the big problems. Dr. Lieberman figures that he will need about \$8000 a year to carry out his research: \$5000 for a technician, \$1000 for supplies, and about

\$2000 for the necessary equipment.
He has requested \$5000 of the Research Committee. No definite commitment has been made as yet for that money or the other \$3000.
Donations to cystic fibrosis research may be made to the California chapter, National Cystic Fibrosis Research foundation, Long Beach district, 5838 Faculty ave., Lakewood, Calif. Individuals may request that donations be earmarked for use at Harbor General hospital.
Dr. Lieberman works on his research project in his spare time—at night and on week ends.
He is not the only one who is anxious to find the answer to this puzzling disease.
In Los Angeles alone, three different hospitals have research projects under way.
"The one hope for these thousands of doomed children lies with the medical research that is now going on here and all over the world," Dr. Lieberman said. "When you meet these families and see these children you want to help."

Lot Zoning May Be Illegal

Restricting downtown parking lots for parking purposes only by means of a special zone may have bumped into a legal obstacle.
City Attorney Stanley Remeyer informed the City Council this week that the proposed rezoning of the property to P-1 "is probably unconstitutional except as to those lots where a written approval is received from the owners."

The council and Planning Commission had instituted action to change parking lots within the boundaries of the downtown assessment district to the special zone.
A third hearing on the matter must still be held before the council.

CHEMICAL COMPANY EXPANDING

Dow Chemical co. has announced construction in progress on a new Plastics Technical Service laboratory in Torrance. The steel frame building, featuring an insulated metal roof deck, brick walls and laminated plastic exterior panels, is being built by Noyes Roach co. Completion is scheduled for March.
One of four similar field laboratories, strategically located in Canada and the United States, the Torrance facility will provide the most modern equipment for fabrication as well as chemical and physical testing of such materials as polystyrene, polyethylene, polyvinyl chloride, foamed plastic, plastic sheets and films, thus expanding the service Dow has been supplying the plastics industry for the past 15 years.
In addition to evaluating materials now in use, the laboratory will also aid in the development of new materials and new uses for plastics, according to the Dow Chemical co.



Dr. Jack Lieberman (foreground) carries out his cystic fibrosis research at Harbor General hospital. Dr. Morris Rockemacher, of the clinical laboratories, looks at one of the instruments.—Press Photo.

SPECIALIST IN FRANCE

Specialist Second Class Harry L. Gehr Jr., whose parents live at 3812 W. 172d st., is a member of the U. S. Army Signal depot in Verdun, France.
Specialist Gehr entered the Army in 1944. His wife, Norl, is with him in France.

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