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**PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE AND MEDICAL RESEARCH:
SOME CONTRIBUTIONS, 1900-1940**

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of the past are held in light esteem."
Sir William Osler

Exhibit prepared by

Mrs. Jeannette Barry, Reference Division
U.S. National Library of Medicine
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Washington, D. C.
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THE PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE AND MEDICAL RESEARCH
SOME CONTRIBUTIONS 1949-1959

"It is a day when the great men
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— Winston Churchill

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A contribution to medical research may be defined as the discovery of a micro-organism, the description of a disease hitherto unidentified, the discovery of the method of transmission and identification of its vector, a new test or reaction, a bacteriological method or an outstanding pioneer epidemiological study.

Through the work of its medical officers and scientists, the contribution of the U. S. Public Health Service to medical research is outstanding and continuing. It is the purpose of this exhibit to present, through a selection of books, papers, reports and memorabilia, some contributions made during the period 1900-1940, by these distinguished scientists: Doctors Milton Rosenau, John F. Anderson, George W. McCoy, R. E. Dyer, Edward Francis, James P. Leake, Charles Armstrong, Wade H. Frost, and William Wherry; chemists, pharmacists and zoologists: Reid Hunt, Atherton Seidell, Maurice I. Smith, William Mansfield Clark, C. W. Stiles.

Working largely in the Hygienic Laboratory and National Institute of Health, these men have advanced our knowledge of such diseases as hookworm disease, tularemia, pellagra, plague, Rocky Mountain spotted fever, encephalitis, psittacosis, typhoid and typhus fevers, and have made such contributions to chemistry and pharmacology as hydrogen-ion determination, discovery of the thyroid hormone in blood, anti-neuritic vitamins.

The period covered by the exhibit begins with Dr. Rosenau's Directorship of the Hygienic Laboratory. This was followed closely by the creation of the Division

of Scientific Research in 1901. By that time, the Service bacteriological investigations had been well started by Dr. Kinyoun, the Laboratory's first Director. Accompanying these investigations, and based on them, were the standardization and control of biological preparations, the foundation of a graduate school in laboratory methods for the training of young Public Health Service officers, the examination and purification of water supplies, and defense of animal experimentation, as well as the isolation and identification of the vectors of many communicable diseases.

Although by the end of the 19th century many specific causative organisms in numerous contagious diseases had been demonstrated, and methods of preventing infection had been devised, the part played by vectors or intermediaries in the transmission of disease remained largely mysterious and unexplained. At the turn of the century a number of brilliant investigations revealed this connection. Americans had contributed only in a limited degree to the growth of microbiological knowledge. They were, however, more alert to its practical applications than their European confreres, and developed the diagnostic laboratory, a new public health institution for the application of bacteriology.

By the close of these forty fruitful years, the National Institute of Health had expanded into several institutes and many laboratories, and had moved to Bethesda, Maryland. The sound position held by the National Institutes of Health in scientific research and development is largely due to the pioneering work of these scientists, who had won world-wide recognition for their contributions to public health and medicine, and who had enjoyed the utmost freedom to conduct research.

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