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REPORT OF THE MEDICAL DEPARTMENT VISITING COMMITTEE

The Medical Department Visiting Committee makes the following recommendations:

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1. The Hospital- A permanent hospital should be planned for the Brookhaven National Laboratory. The hospital should be constructed as close to the center of the general laboratory facilities as possible. Only when this is accomplished will it be possible for those working in the Medical Department to be in intimate contact with those scientists working in the other biological and physical sciences.

The hospital should, we believe, have approximately 75 beds of which 15 should be kept for the care of employees and certain dependents and 60 beds should be assigned for research.

It is the consensus of this Committee that insofar as the case of employees and dependents is concerned no attempt be made by the Medical Department to duplicate all the facilities for clinical care now existing in neighboring hospitals, but that the staff should concern itself with those problems requiring immediate care, and further act as a clearing house for referring patients to special institutions when the need for highly specialized skills become necessary.

It is not now possible to suggest the allocation of beds for different types of research. This will depend upon the specific research problems that develop within the scientific staff. These may be nutritional, renal, bacteriological, the broad or narrow aspects of malignant disease, or they may be in various related fields.

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No doubt some problems will require the collaboration of senior scientists and associates in different divisions while in other instances a specific project will be pursued in the main within a single division. In either case it is highly desirable that close contact be maintained with workers in the biological and fundamental sciences. This requires that the permanent hospital be located in close proximity to other laboratories as already mentioned.

The Laboratories- Since no appropriations have been made available for the permanent hospital and associated laboratories; and it will be some time before such facilities become available, the establishment of temporary laboratories is not only justified, but essential. Adequate facilities are now available for pathology and bacteriology. The facilities for biochemistry must be expanded. No laboratory for the division of physiology exists at present and to our knowledge no funds are at present available for its construction and equipment. It is highly desirable that funds be provided as soon as possible to complete the temporary laboratory set-up planned by the Staff.

The Staff- It is the opinion of this Committee that a splendid start has now been made in obtaining a staff of university caliber as the Director and Assistant Director of the Medical Department and for the heads of three of the Divisions. They are men of whom any institution would justly be proud. They are working, however, in a somewhat isolated situation too far removed from the other biologists and the chemists and physicists. The cooperation between all these groups is excellent but it would nevertheless be greatly improved by closer association. Unless this isolated group is large

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enough in itself for adequate self stimulation it might well lose the vigorous enthusiasm which it now possesses. This could be avoided by prompt action in appointing further members of the staff to the vacancies which still exist. It is important for a research group to be big enough but not too big. A continuing group of young men, interested in specific fields of research, and in obtaining training in the use of isotopes for research and therapy, should be encouraged to come to Brookhaven for periods of from 4 months to one year. Your Committee will attempt to encourage young men spending time at the Brookhaven National Laboratories to work with the permanent members of the staff.

The Care of Those Working at Brookhaven- It need not be pointed out to you and your associates that the Chairman of the Medical Department realizes his responsibilities in playing an important part in maintaining the health of those working at Brookhaven.

It will be necessary that he obtain the fullest cooperation from the administration in order to carry out this objective. He will require the services of some one interested and trained in industrial hygiene, and it is hoped that such an individual can be obtained from Oak Ridge, Los Alamos, or Hanford. If this can be done much time and effort will be saved and it will not then be necessary to repeat the work which has already been done in these institutions.

The Present Research- The Committee was impressed with the extent of the research program which has been initiated in the Medical Department. It is important. It is being vigorously pursued. It would, in our opinion, be a credit to any institution. If the present staff is kept, if it is further augmented and if young men are encouraged to come to the various

divisions on a temporary basis the present enthusiasm will continue to be nourished and from all of this much fine work will come.

In view of the special physical facilities available at Brookhaven it may be expected that most of the experimental studies will involve the use of radioactive isotopes and/or ionizing radiations. In the opinion of one of the members of the Committee, who has had extensive experience in this field, it is essential that plans be made now for a Division of Radiological Physics in the Medical Department. This division should be headed by a well trained man familiar with the subject and interested in such problems as other divisions may undertake, in order that all aspects of a common problem be expertly explored and prosecuted. The same purpose cannot be accomplished by occasional consultations with members of the Physics Department or other individuals at Brookhaven who are preoccupied with their own problems. Contacts with such persons will be very valuable to be sure - and this has been emphasized elsewhere in this report - but they cannot take the place of constant collaboration in all the research activities of the Medical Department. At the present time no radiological physicist with the proper qualifications is available. Therefore, the only thing that can be done is to make the necessary provisions in the plans for the permanent setup for a Division of Radiological Physics, to be developed and staffed at the first opportunity.

/s/ C. M. MacLeod

/s/ H. L. Blumgart

/s/ W. O. Fenn

/s/ G. Failla

/s/ I. S. Ravdin

Chairman

June 9, 1950

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