



TREATMENT

Powerful gamma rays from a radium "bomb" penetrate the body tissues to kill deep-seated cancer cells which threaten life. Hines Hospital owns three grams of precious radium, valued at \$25,000 at current prices.

sufficient quantity of radium to take care of the needs of the veterans applying for treatment. There are all told approximately 3.9 grams of radium and eleven high voltage X-ray machines in the tumor clinics of the Veterans' Administration.

At Hines, Ill., the Administration has a radium emanation plant for producing radium gas or radon. Approximately one gram of radium is in solution, and, by means of the emanation equipment, sufficient radon gas is manufactured for the treatment of all cancer patients at Hines. In addition there are two grams of radium in an apparatus known as the "radium bomb." This apparatus is used for applying radium element in such conditions as cancer of the intestines, larynx, and tonsils.

All of the tumor clinics just mentioned have on duty cancer specialists who have had special training and experience in the diagnosis and scientific treatment of the disease. In addition outstanding consultants are available at the tumor clinics to cooperate with the full-time medical officers in the treatment of cancer cases. They include such cancer specialists as Drs. James Ewing, Frank E. Adair, Max Cutler, Edwin Merritt, and a number of other men well known in the field of cancer.

Each tumor clinic is so organized that every patient is given the benefit

of consultation by a group of experts and consultants, inasmuch as no single physician is competent to treat cancer, but the combined efforts of the surgeon, the radiotherapist, the pathologist, physicist, and other specialists are needed to decide upon the diagnosis and treat-

ment in each case. It would seem, therefore, that the tumor clinics of the Veteran's Administration are fully equipped and competently manned for the diagnosis and treatment of this disease.,

The Veterans' Administration has not been content with (*Turn to Page 159*)

PSYCHOLOGY

Over-Anxious Parents May be Cause of Children's Stuttering

STUTTERING may sometimes be caused by oversolicitude of anxious parents who apply the label "stuttering" to the normal repetition of words and sounds in ordinary baby talk. This statement and the implied warning were made by Dr. Wendell Johnson, of the University of Iowa's Speech Clinic, in a report to the newly organized American Association of Applied and Professional Psychology at Minneapolis recently.

Nearly fifty little children, most of whom are under five years old, have been studied by Dr. Johnson in an attempt to learn how stuttering starts, and what causes it. In health and also psychological and sociological factors, the group turned out to be a normal, ordinary bunch of children. A few had troubles of one sort or another and something like 25 per cent had shifted from left- to right-handedness or done so partially, but for the most part there was nothing out of the ordinary.

Sound Repetition Usual

For nearly all the youngsters (90 per cent) the "stuttering" began with an occasional and effortless repetition of sounds or with prolonged pauses and interjected "Ah's." Later these were accompanied by tension, grimaces, and emotion. As a rule the "stuttering" occurred when the child was thwarted, humiliated, undecided, or rebuked, Dr. Johnson found.

Such repetitions of sound are not peculiar to the so-called stutterers, but are common among practically all young children Dr. Johnson emphasized. But in the case of these particular youngsters, the label "stuttering," or "defective" was tagged onto them, perhaps merely because their parents were peculiarly sensitive to the hesitating speech. The children themselves then began to think of their speech as "stuttering" and

this in turn led to additional embarrassment and additional stuttering.

Thus the development of stuttering appears to be a spiral process, Dr. Johnson concludes. An originally normal hesitation, because of the attention called to it, leading to more hesitation, and it in turn to more, practically indefinitely.

Serious criticism of the new style of psychological examinations calling for a short answer or the mere underlining of words or choice of a printed correct answer was presented to the meeting by Dr. F. L. Wells, of a Boston, Mass., psychological laboratory.

Various types of mental tests were themselves put to a test by Dr. Wells, who gave them to two groups of individuals, one of which included men superior in economic efficiency, while the other contained those lacking in this important ability.

Conventional intelligence and personality tests fail to make any distinction between the two groups, Dr. Wells found. The superiority of the one group is, however, disclosed by those testing procedures which place a higher premium on "vision" or "imagination."

Why is it that men and women bothered with psychological problems may consult physicians, classroom teachers, eye specialists, ministers, social workers, and even WPA workers, but not psychologists?

That question was raised by Dr. Marné Groff, consulting psychologist of Kansas City, Mo. Dr. Groff believes it is because people do not know of the services that a competent, professionally trained psychologist can offer, because of lack of professional organization of the psychologists and lack of cooperation with physicians and because the profession has been injured by those calling themselves psychologists but who are really quacks or persons lacking real professional training.

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