

used to guarantee that particles were coming from only one direction outside the apparatus. The last counter served to cut off the observing chamber when high energy particles, photographs of which were not wanted, passed through the counters. Had this last trap not been used 4,000 pictures—instead of 1,000—would have been necessary to obtain the one vital atomic portrait for which Drs. Street and Stevenson were looking.

Science News Letter, November 27, 1937

MEDICINE

Iron and Sugar Checks Cancer Growth in Rats

A COMBINATION of sugar and iron given on top of a red or blue dye has been successful in treating one kind of cancer in rats, it appears from experiments conducted by Drs. Richard M. Brickner and Royal E. Grant of the College of Physicians and Surgeons, Columbia University, and the Neurological Institute. The two scientists state (*Science*, Nov. 12) that the treatment is under discussion not as a cure but as a method of checking the growth of the tumors in the animals.

In 47 out of 64 animals treated so far, the tumor stopped growing, they report. In about half of these animals the tumor receded. In only a few cases, however, did the tumor recede completely.

The sugar and iron combination used is ferric gluconate. Alone, this chemical had some power to check tumor growth. It was much more effective when given after injection of either a red or blue dye. The dye, it is explained, is readily taken up by the tumor cells and seems to "make up a chemical bed in the tumor, by virtue of which the ferric gluconate might either be held in increased quantity or be made more effective in the tumor."

Not only was the growth of the tumors checked, but the tumors themselves, when sections of them were examined under the microscope following the treatment, were found to have undergone "profound and widespread changes." Only occasional normal looking nests of cells were found in the tumors after the iron and sugar and dye treatment.

Science News Letter, November 27, 1937

Arguing for lighted highways, a lighting engineer points out that 60 per cent. of traffic deaths occur at night, when only 20 per cent. of the day's traffic volume is moving.



SPEEDY TELEPHOTO CAMERA

Machine gun sights, an extremely long-focus lens of great speed and a universal tripod mounting feature the new news camera shown here with the inventor, Photographer Charles A. Gatschet of Des Moines, Iowa. Still not satisfied with his equipment, however, Gatschet plans to further improve his camera, so that it can be opened more quickly and operated with less labor.

PUBLIC HEALTH

Committee of Physicians Urges Adequate Medical Care

P RINCIPLES and proposals for reorganizing medical practice in accord with changing social and economic conditions so as to bring medical care to the "forgotten man," at present un-nursed and undoctored, were presented to medical organizations by a Committee of Physicians in New Haven, Conn.

The committee represents 430 medical men. It includes one Nobel Prize winner and is headed by the following officers: Dr. Russell L. Cecil, Chairman, associate attending physician, New York Hospital; Dr. John P. Peters, Secretary, professor of medicine, Yale University School of Medicine; Dr. Milton C. Winternitz, Vice-chairman, Professor of pathology, formerly dean, Yale University School of Medicine; Dr. Hugh Cabot, Vice-chairman, Consulting surgeon, Mayo Clinic.

The medical profession, although only one of several groups vitally concerned with medical care, should, in the opin-

ion of the committee, take the lead in proposed changes and should cooperate with other interested groups. Medicine must be ready to change and not remain static if "medical men are to act as the expert advisers of those who convert public opinion into action."

Health insurance alone, the committee and its subscribers believe, does not offer a satisfactory solution on the basis of the principles and proposals they have drawn up.

First of the principles indicates the view that the people's health is the direct concern of the government and that a national public health policy should be formulated. Prevention of illness is stressed as the first necessary step toward improving the medical and health picture. Voluntary agencies, local, state and federal governments are all concerned, the committee states, in providing adequate medical care.