of the Medical Society of the District of Columbia. He believes that scientists "are in sight of success in this direction."

The idea of using viruses to stop cancer is not new. For more than half a century doctors have reported occasional cases of a cancer patient improving remarkably when he had gotten some germ-caused disease.

Development of sulfa drugs, penicillin and other antibiotics which stop so many disease germs has led scientists at the University of California to try deliberately infecting cancer patients with a disease that can be cured in the hope it will stop the cancer. A few dramatic improvements have been reported, but they were only temporary.

At Memorial Hospital scientists found a number of viruses which would destroy cancer in mice and fowl without harming the animals. Some of these viruses do not, so far as is known, cause serious disease in man. It is these viruses which have been given trials on patients. Although the patients have not been helped except perhaps temporarily, the scientists have been encouraged because they occasionally find the virus in the cancer. This means that they are getting a virus which will select cancer cells to grow on in preference to other cells in the body.

Right now they are working first, to get human cancers to grow in an animal, such as a mouse. Then they are trying to get a cancer-killing but otherwise harmless virus to adapt itself to select these human cancer cells for its home.

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Wild mourning *doves*, trapped by wildlife officials, were dipped in brilliant aniline dye solutions before release so that hunters this fall will note and report leg bands, an aid in a study of their journeying.

There are 800 different kinds of *earthworms* in the world.

METEOROLOGY

Snow Prediction Method

➤ SUDDEN, HEAVY snowstorms—the kind that paralyze cities—will be predicted with a greater degree of accuracy and sooner this winter as the result of research done in the Weather Bureau's regional office in Washington.

Last winter the research paid off in predicting the great Ohio snowstorm. It might have helped to give a better prediction of New York's blizzard in 1947.

The heavy snows in Cleveland amounting to 22 inches were predicted because the weather pattern before the storm was remarkably like the weather pattern just before Cleveland's great snowstorm of November, 1913, when an all-time high of 22.2 inches fell. The weather maps for Nov. 8, 1913, might almost have been used to analyze the weather on Nov. 24, 1950.

Most sudden, heavy snowstorms are hard to predict. They do not cast their shadow before them, at least on the weather maps. It is for this reason that Conrad P. Mook, the Weather Bureau's research man for a ten-state region in the East, has tackled the problem.

He has gone over the records of almost 500 heavy snowstorms for the first 40 years of this century in the ten-state area. And he has noticed this remarkable similarity in weather patterns time and again. This coming winter, when he sees weather patterns which look as though they happened before prior to a storm, the forecasters will be alerted.

As a further help in forecasting storms, Mr. Mook has worked out the probability of one city getting heavy snow right after another city has received a thick blanket. Where it has worked out in the past that the same storm has hit two cities, forecasters will be alerted.

Next problem to be worked out is what causes these weather patterns which precede storms. Mr. Mook will search through all the variables which go to make up a weather pattern. He will try to discover what combination of speed of winds at various heights, temperature and moisture in the air would signify heavy snow.

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Question Box

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Photographs: Cover, Illinois Natural History Survey; p. 227, David Owen; p. 229, Salvador Gordoa A.; p. 231, U. S. Air Force; p. 234, U. S. Bureau of Mines.

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