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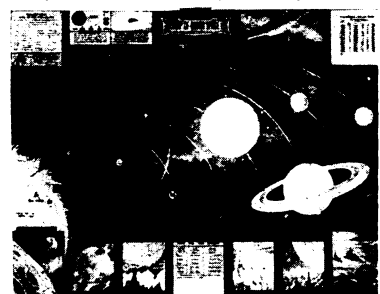
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MEDICINE

Scanning Device Speeds Vaginal Cell Examination

► DETECTION of cancer of the uterus is now simpler and quicker due to a scanning device that can differentiate abnormal cell specimens.

The electronic device is called the Cyto-analyzer. It sorts specimens of vaginal fluid in cell examinations, Dr. John C. Pruitt of the National Cancer Institute reported at the annual meeting of the Inter-Society Cytology Council in New York.

The first clinical trial of the device produced successful results, the scientist said. In the current study, 1,075 negative slides and 20 positive or suspicious slides were fed into the machine.

About 40% of the known negative slides were correctly eliminated as totally negative. Thus, only those left would have had to be examined by cyto-technicians. None of the positive cases were missed by the machine.

The reduction of error in the electronic selection was accomplished by a new method of preparing vaginal-cervical specimens for machine scanning. This method allows the instrument to scan each cell and record the results.

This device is expected to play an important role in decreasing the death rate from uterine cancer.

Science News Letter, January 24, 1959

TECHNOLOGY

Old G.I. Snooper-scope Becomes Science Tool

► THE CELEBRATED Army snooper-scope, used to spot the enemy at night during World War II and the Korean conflict, has been modified into a simple, powerful research tool.

In its wartime application, the snooper-scope sends out invisible infrared rays which are reflected back into the tube. The rays pass into an electronic converter which in turn shoots electrons against a phosphorescent screen, revealing the image of the enemy troops and equipment.

The modification allows scientists to use ultraviolet light to view living human tissues, chemicals and industrial materials otherwise impossible to see.

Although ultraviolet is not new to research, the device which has been named "Ultrascope" is believed to be the first providing direct visible focusing in the use of such rays.

Developed at the Radio Corporation of America's electron tube division, Lancaster, Pa., the Ultrascope has been tested by several outside researchers, including Dr. George Z. Williams of the National Institutes of Health clinical center near Washington.

Dr. Williams said the device could have innumerable applications in research in science and industry.

In the medical field, the Ultrascope allows scientists to see, among other things, individual chemicals and structures in human

cells and blood and protein changes caused by virus infections.

For viewing these same things, Dr. Williams now has a \$15,000 television set-up. It contains more than 100 electron tubes and is housed in a special laboratory with cooling equipment. The Ultrascope has a single tube, is kept in a four-cubic-inch box and costs about \$1,500.

The device, according to Dr. Williams, provides an image superior to that of the complex television. While the television picture is made of a series of lines, the picture in Ultrascope is more like that seen in the movies.

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