

MEDICINE

Cancer, Smoking Link Indicated by Lesions

➤ A STUDY of precancerous lesions has provided a new link between smoking and cancer.

Dr. Oscar Auerbach of the Veterans Administration Hospital in East Orange, N. J., told the fourth National Cancer Conference in Minneapolis, Minn.: "In our studies, precancerous lesions have always been present in cases dying of lung cancer. Every one of these gave a history of having smoked. . . . In individuals dying of causes other than lung cancer with verified smoking histories available, similar changes are present."

The researcher said air-pollutants other than cigarette smoke seemed to have played only a minor role in the production of such lesions.

• Science News Letter, 78:207 September 24, 1960

Sarcosin for Cancer

➤ PROLONGING OF LIFE for cancer patients with a tumor arising from sperm cells (seminoma of the testicles) has been made possible by the use of the drug sarcosin (chloroethylaminophenylalanine) in Russia.

Dr. N. N. Blokhin, president of the USSR Academy of Medical Sciences, Moscow, reported to the fourth National Cancer Conference in Minneapolis, Minn., that since 1954, the Institute of Clinical Oncology has treated 86 patients who had previously undergone surgery for seminoma of the testicles. Success with sarcosin in this country in treating breast cancer has been previously reported.

Sarcosin was given in doses of 40 to 50 milligrams once in six to seven days with constant observation of the blood condition.

The Russian physician said that sarcosin has a very active effect on this particular type of cancer, but no effect on other types of testicle tumors of different structure.

• Science News Letter, 78:207 September 24, 1960

Questions

ANTHROPOLOGY—Where was the ancient skull of *Oreopithecus* found? p. 200.

BIOLOGY—What effect may the earth's rotation have on the metabolic rhythm of plants? p. 194.

MEDICINE—What is the electrical device that enables persons with paralyzed leg muscles to walk? p. 195.

METEOROLOGY—What is the range of the new radarscope? p. 199.

Photographs: Cover, Raytheon Company; p. 195, Veterans Administration; p. 197, Air Products, Inc.; p. 208, Horbers.

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