

Medical Science Notes

Chemotherapy Molecular-biology

Drs. Sidney Farber of Boston and George E. Palade of New York have been given the two 1966 Albert Lasker Research Awards.

The first drugs to produce remissions in children with acute leukemia were discovered by Dr. Farber in 1947. The drugs are aminopterin and methotrexate. For the first time, in 1955, he produced, with a chemical, regression of the common kidney cancer in children, Wilms' tumor. The chemical, actinomycin, has now been further combined with small doses of radiotherapy to completely destroy the tumor even after it has spread to the lungs, a situation previously incurable.

Dr. Palade was presented with the Albert Lasker Basic Research Award for "fundamental contributions to the electron microscopy of biological materials."

In the early 1950's, Dr. Palade and his colleagues began mapping the de-

tailed structure of various types of cells with the aid of electron microscopes. In the past 15 years, as the ability to visualize small objects increased from the best light microscopes to the 400 times more powerful electron microscope, his work has pioneered the study of the nature of cellular processes at a molecular level.

City Accidents Worse Than War

Chances of surviving combat wounds in Vietnam or Korea are better than on the average city street, expert consultants say.

A report of the National Research Council just released says that accidents "are the neglected disease of modern society."

The report contrasts the research expenditures of the U.S. Public Health Service bureaus, which allow 50 cents for each of the 10 million accident victims and the \$220 for each of the estimated 540,000 cancer patients. Grants

also allow \$76 for each of the estimated 1,420,000 cardiovascular patients.

Recommended is expansion of clinical research in war wounds along with other financial support of basic and applied research in trauma.

Tattoos Removed by Laser

Unightly tattoos can now be removed with the amplified light of the laser because of the color sensitivity of the device.

Warts and other pigmented skin growths have also been removed, Dr. Leon Goldman, director of the Laser Laboratory at Children's Hospital Research Foundation, Cincinnati, told the American Medical Association's annual clinical convention (Nov. 28).

More basic research is needed, but the laser is now ready for controlled investigative studies in humans, he said. He recently removed a human tumor with a laser, the first such use of the intense light beam.

Social Science Notes

Sexual Indifference Growing

American men are becoming increasingly more indifferent toward women, while women are becoming more assertive, a Los Angeles psychiatrist stated last week.

Dr. Ralph R. Greenson, of the University of California at Los Angeles, described some reasons at the American Medical Association's Clinical Convention in Las Vegas.

A typical notion among middle-aged men is that their bodies must be preserved from undue strain, said Dr. Greenson. "It is not rare to find men who act in bed as though the sexual act is a dangerous obligation . . . they are more interested in preserving their body than their marriage," he said.

The "cool" attitude of the young is due partly to quick and easy satisfactions, said Dr. Greenson. But also, he said, fathers in the U.S. spend too little time with their sons, thereby promoting identification with the mother.

Brotherly Love Fragments Villages

Southeast Asia's Lahu people are continually splitting up their villages—paradoxically because their ideal of "brotherly love" is extraordinarily high, reported Cornell University anthropologist Lauriston Sharp at his association's recent convention in Pittsburgh.

The generosity demanded of siblings, extends to distant and "fictional" kinship as well, said Dr. Sharp.

Consequently, when some households in the natural course of events become less productive than others, they become a "constant drag on their better-off 'siblings'," he said.

Rather than renounce the high ideal, the more industrious or energetic households will move out and establish a separate village. There, for a while, villagers more nearly reach the brotherly ideal.

The Lahu people live in the borderlands of Burma, Laos, China and Thailand.

Eye Jerks React To Drugs

Involuntary eye jerks, called saccades, change distinctly from the norm when an individual is under the influence of an hallucinogenic drug or alcohol, an Ohio professor of optometry reports.

Normally, the eye flicks once or twice a second, no matter how hard the person tries to keep it still. With LSD, psilocybin or mescaline—all hallucinogens—the frequency of the jerks increased sharply, according to Dr. Frederick W. Hebbard of Ohio State University, Columbus.

Alcohol also changed the jerking pattern, but in a different manner from the hallucinogens, said Dr. Hebbard, who with psychiatrist Roland Fischer tested eye movements in four volunteers, aged 22 to 24.

Dr. Hebbard believes the saccade changes would be a more sensitive method of detecting both the presence and the kind of drug than are pupil changes.