

● RADIO

Dr. Sydney H. Ball, consulting mining geologist will discuss the use of diamonds in industry as guest scientist on "Adventures in Science" with Watson Davis, director of Science Service, over the coast to coast network of the Columbia Broadcasting System, Thursday, May 2, 4:15 p.m., EDST, 3:15 EST, 2:15 CST, 1:15 MST, 12:15 PST.

Listen in on your local station. Listen in each Thursday.

up a magnetic field which in association with the steel hull and other magnetic material of the ship is such that magnetic mines laid at sea are not set off by the passage over them of a vessel so equipped. The expressive name applied to this protective device is "de-gaussing girdle." It is named after the unit of magnetic flux density. This honors a great German scientist, Carl Friedrich Gauss (1777-1855), known as the "prince of mathematicians," who in addition to being responsible for the theory of probability (not without its application to mining operations!) did fundamental work in electrodynamics.

Science News Letter, April 27, 1940

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MEDICINE

Report Cancer in Mice Cured with Yeast Extract

Bacterial Factors Present in the Yeast May Account For Effect of Treatment, But Action Is Not Clear

CURE of spontaneous breast cancer in eight out of 33 mice following injections of yeast extract is announced by Drs. R. Lewisohn, C. Leuchtenberger, R. Leuchtenberger and D. Laszlo, of Mt. Sinai Hospital, New York, in a report to the Society for Experimental Biology and Medicine. (*Proceedings*, March.)

The cancers in the eight mice disappeared and have not so far recurred. In 10 other mice treated with yeast extract the cancers were reduced in size. In the other 15 no change in the tumors was noted or they had even increased in size when treatment was discontinued or the animal died.

Effect of treatment of cancer with yeast in powder form or in pills, instead

of by injection into the veins or under the skin, will be reported later, the scientists state.

Bacterial factors which may have been present in the yeast might have accounted for the effect of the treatment on the cancers, although the exact factors responsible for the action of the yeast extract are said to be "entirely unclear."

Complete retrogression of transplanted cancers in 60% of mice and in 30% of spontaneous tumors treated with concentrated spleen extract has previously been reported by these same scientists. The cancers in the yeast-treated mice, however, were not transplanted but arose spontaneously.

Science News Letter, April 27, 1940

MEDICINE

Warn Against Cancer Danger From Sex Hormone Treatment

New York Physicians Are Alarmed By Their Experiences With Therapy Widely-Used for Variety of Disorders

WARNING of the danger of cancer from the now widely used female sex hormone treatment is issued by two New York physicians and by the editor of the *Journal of the American Medical Association* (April 20).

A case of breast cancer developing in a woman who was given a female sex hormone preparation for two years and three months is reported by Drs. Hugh Auchincloss and Cushman D. Haagen, of Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons and Presbyterian Hospital. The New York doctors say they cannot be sure the sex hormone treatment caused the cancer, but they "are nevertheless sufficiently alarmed by our own experiences to warn against the needless and excessive administration of estrogenic substances (female sex hormones) so prevalent today."

They list some 18 conditions for which these substances are now used, including

female disorders, sterility, high blood pressure, migraine, hemophilia, senile deafness, atrophic rhinitis and acne.

"Until more is known about the effect of these substances," they conclude their report on sex hormone treatment and cancer, "we believe their use should be avoided: 1. In large or prolonged doses; 2. When there is a family history of breast cancer; 3. Without initial and repeated clinical examination of both breasts; 4. In patients with chronic mastitis, carcinoma or any form of breast neoplasm, either before or after surgical or radiation treatment."

Repeating the warning about the use of female sex hormone treatments because of the danger of cancer, the editor of the journal calls attention to another report, from England, of three cases of cancer of the womb developing among 43 patients treated with female sex hormone.

Science News Letter, April 27, 1940