

MEDICINE

War Waged on Cancer

Scientists who aided military victory now turning to fight for victory over cancer which killed twice as many Americans as enemy did.

► THE SCIENTIFIC might of the nation which gave such aids to victory as radar, flame throwers and atomic bombs, is now being mobilized for a long range fight to victory over cancer.

This disease ranks as our Number One Enemy, Dr. Frank E. Adair, president of the American Cancer Society, declared at the society's annual dinner for the National Association of Science Writers, held in New York.

"Between Pearl Harbor and V-J Day cancer killed more than twice as many Americans as did the Germans and the Japs," he stated. "Unless we do something about it, 17,000,000 Americans now living will die of cancer. It is exceeded only by heart disease as a cause of death. Because it frequently means not only death but long and cruel suffering, it is the disease we dread most."

The nation spent \$2,000,000,000 on wartime research on the atomic bomb. The cancer society hopes the American public will contribute from \$3,000,000 to \$5,000,000 during 1946 for research for the war on cancer.

The National Research Council, chief adviser of the government on the organization of wartime research, is now acting in the same capacity to advise the cancer society on cancer war research. It has already recruited 90 of the nation's leading scientists to lay the battle plans and hopes to enlist in the fight men now being released from the armed forces, it was announced at the dinner meeting. Funds for fellowships for such workers will be provided, Dr. Cornelius P. Rhoads, director of Memorial Hospital and chairman of the committee on growth which will guide the over-all planning, stated.

Information and materials from atomic, chemical warfare and other war researches will, so far as military security permits, be made available to cancer research workers, it is hoped. Negotiations for this are now under way with the Secretary of War, Dr. Rhoads announced.

While coordination of the nation's scientific abilities and activities brought enormous and rapid advances, application of the same kind of coordinated attack on cancer has certain differences,

Dr. Lewis H. Weed, chairman of the committee of medical sciences of the National Research Council under which the committee on growth has been organized, pointed out.

"Wartime research was chiefly concerned with applying knowledge which had been previously discovered," he stated, "while problems like that of cancer require the discovery of new knowledge."

Even with our present knowledge, however, "upward of 5,000,000 persons now living in America can be saved from death by cancer if they learn the danger signals of this disease and the importance of seeking medical aid at first sign of trouble," Dr. Clarence C. Little, director of the Roscoe B. Jackson Memorial Laboratory of Bar Harbor, Maine, stated.

The scope of the new attack on cancer can be seen from the subjects planned

for study under a score of research panels. These include genetics, chemistry and biology of cells, the milk factor, viruses, botany, nutrition, enzymes, proteins, the endocrine glands, the blood and blood forming organs, physics, radiology and radioactive tracer substances.

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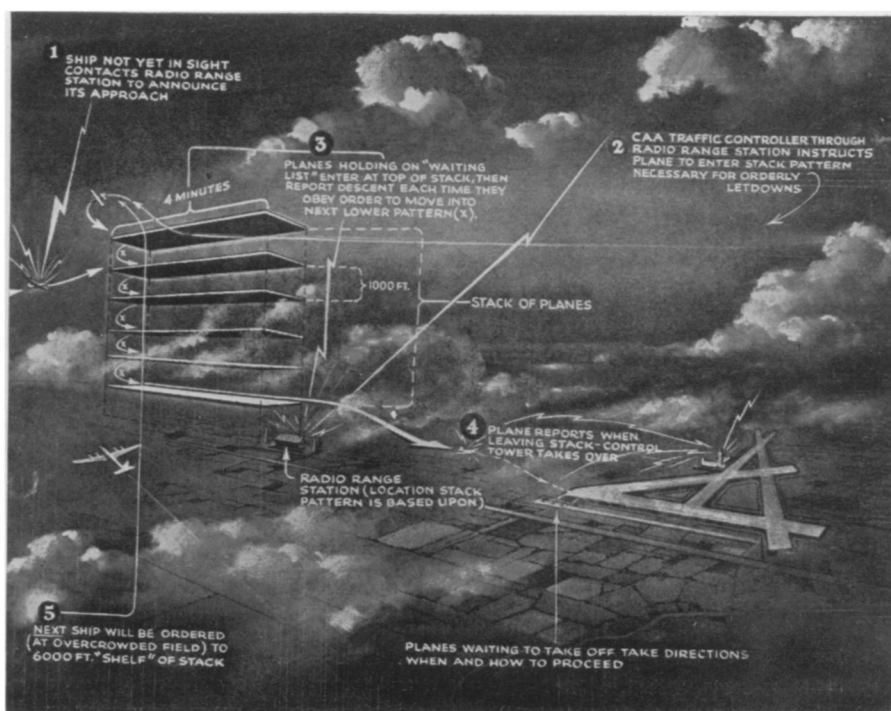
Penicillin Partner Fights T.B., Typhoid

See Front Cover

► CRYSTALLINE streptomycin, partner of penicillin, is shown on the front cover of this SCIENCE NEWS LETTER. Streptomycin proved effective in controlling tuberculosis in guinea pigs and has had limited suppressive effect on the disease in humans. The drug brought recovery from typhoid in three of five cases, suggesting it may bring recoveries and prevent carriers. Photograph from Merck & Co., Inc. (See SNL Sept. 29, Dec. 22).

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Dried eggs, developed for war uses, will probably be widely used in making ice cream in the future.



"STACKING" PLANES—The technique of "stacking" incoming airplanes at large commercial airports is illustrated by this drawing from the current "Bulletin of the Air Power League." Illustrative of the importance of airport traffic is the fact that some major airports are handling take-offs and landings at an average rate of about one every four minutes.