

MEDICINE

Sex Hormone for Cancer

New treatment of the disease is going to be tried in cancer clinics throughout the country under A.M.A. sponsorship. Still in experimental stage.

➤ A NEW way of treating cancer is going to be tried on a large scale by cancer clinics all over the country under the auspices of a special committee of the American Medical Association.

The treatment consists in the use of sex hormones. Several hundred patients with advanced cancer of the breast have already been treated with female sex hormones. Several score with cancer that spread to the bones from the breast have been treated with male hormone. And men with cancer of the prostate gland have been helped by castration and by treatment with female sex hormones.

The hormone treatment of breast cancer has not yet shown signs of being a cure. But in some cases it relieves symptoms and may prolong life. Doctors are eager to use this new treatment for their patients whose breast cancers have gone beyond the stage where operation will help.

But indiscriminate use of the hormones is dangerous. In some cases, female hormones speed the rate of growth of the cancer. Patients with cancer that has spread to the bones and who have a lot of calcium in their blood have been made very ill by the male hormone treatment that has helped others.

The treatment is still in the experimental stage. But by the proposed trials of it on large numbers of patients with careful records to be impartially judged, it is hoped that its exact place in the fight against cancer can be learned. Some breast cancer patients will be helped now. Many more, with other kinds of cancers, may be helped in the future because, the committee hopes, the studies will tell more about the part hormones play in cancer. Such information could lead to a basic attack on cancer either through better treatment in early stages or through prevention.

Five firms have offered to supply substantial quantities of male hormone for the studies. Others are considering participation in the project.

The cases under treatment will be reviewed by two groups of consultants. One of these will be a group of X-ray specialists who will study and evaluate

X-ray pictures of all patients before and after hormone treatment. The other group will be pathologists who will study specimens of the cancers themselves, before and after treatment, to give their independent verdict on the

AERONAUTICS

Jet Plane Folds Its Wings

➤ A NEW jet-propelled carrier-based fighter plane for the U. S. Navy has had its first flight test at the Long Island plant of the Grumman Aircraft Engineering Corporation at Bethpage, N. Y. It is a fast plane, with folding wings, and especially designed for take-off and landing on a short runway.

In general appearance the new plane, which will be known as the Grumman XF9F-2 Panther, resembles other familiar jet fighters except for its short square-tipped wings which fold for shipboard storage. The movable leading edge of the wing, which moves in conjunction

effects of the treatment.

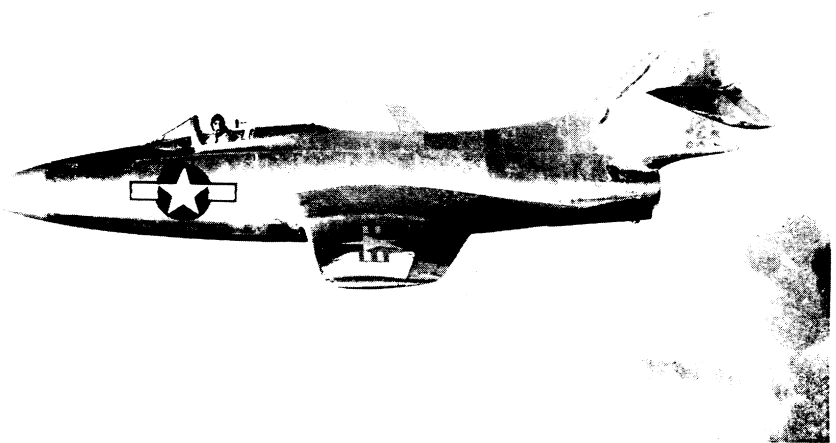
Chairman of the committee in charge of the trials is Dr. Ira T. Nathanson, of the Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston. Other members are: Dr. Frank E. Adair, Memorial Hospital, New York; Dr. Willard M. Allen, Washington University School of Medicine, St. Louis; and Dr. Earl T. Engle, College of Physicians and Surgeons, Columbia University, New York.

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Wood deep under water may last for hundreds of years unless eaten by sea worms.

with the wing flaps in landing and take-off, provides improved stalling characteristics and added lift.

The first experimental model of this plane is powered by a Rolls-Royce Nene engine, developed in England but built in this country by Pratt and Whitney. Some later planes will have Allison turbo-jet engines. This is a re-designed model of the General Electric I-40 which Allison has been exclusively developing and building since 1945. It is the engine in the Lockheed P-80 Shooting Star that set an international speed record of nearly 624 miles an hour. This record



CARRIER-BASED JET—To be known as the Grumman XF9F-2 Panther, it resembles other jet fighters except for its square-tipped wings which fold for shipboard accommodation. It will be the first jet-fighter which can use either of two engines—the Rolls-Royce Nene engine or the Allison turbo-jet engine.