

## MEDICINE

# Three-Prong Cancer Attack

Diet, hormones such as cortisone and ACTH, and more exact use of antibiotics form the three fronts on which the disease is being battled.

► A THREE-PRONGED attack on cancer has been launched at George Washington University Cancer Clinic in Washington. Diet, hormones such as cortisone and ACTH of anti-arthritis fame, and more exact use of antibiotics such as penicillin are the three prongs. Dr. Jeanne Bateman is in charge of this latest attack.

Through it, scientists expect to be able to push much further the use of nitrogen mustard, a poison gas, to relieve pain and to increase the destruction of the cancers. Chief limitation on use of this chemical has been its poisonous quality. Not enough can be given to get full use of its cancer-destroying power.

Nitrogen mustard has already been giving better results through a new method of using it devised a year ago by Dr. Calvin T. Clopp, director of the cancer clinic. Standard method of using the war gas chemical has been to inject it into the patient's veins. By this method it is used chiefly to treat the cancerous condition called Hodgkin's disease. But Dr. Clopp's method is to inject the chemical into arteries supplying the cancer with blood. Injected into veins, the poison gas chemical has to travel all through the blood stream to reach the cancer. Injected into the cancer's blood supply, much more of it can be gotten into the cancer and about three times as much can be given without poisoning the patient.

Nitrogen mustard acts like X-rays and atom bomb radiation to destroy cancers and also to destroy bone marrow where blood is formed. To protect against this bone

marrow destroying effect, scientists at George Washington Hospital are giving cortisone. Although this new feature of the treatment has only been tried for a month, they already have evidence that it is succeeding.

Patients getting nitrogen mustard lose nitrogen, salt and potassium from their bodies in too large quantities. Special diets, with lots of protein food such as meat and eggs and with properly sized amounts of salt and potassium, are being used.

To keep up the patient's ability to fight germ infections, special study is being made of the patient's blood. The object is to determine, among other things, what each patient's ability is for forming antibodies against germs. Doses of penicillin and other antibiotics can be better planned with such knowledge.

Dr. Bateman's work will be pushed for another year under a \$17,671 grant just awarded by the university's Alexander and Margaret Stewart Fund. Previously it was supported by a National Cancer Institute fellowship which terminates in February.

Science News Letter, January 20, 1951

## PHOTOGRAMMETRY

## Air Photos Better Than Ground Measurements

► PRE-INVASION aerial measurements of the Inchon beachhead were more accurate than ground measurements made after the invasion.

Amron H. Katz of the Photographic Laboratory, Wright Field, Ohio, told the American Society of Photogrammetry meeting in Washington that the differences between the aerial measurements from photographs and the post-invasion ground measurements averaged about six inches. Evidence points to the aerial measurements being more accurate, he stated.

Novel methods of interpreting were developed on the spot to make these very exact measurements of the seawall heights at the two invasion beaches at Inchon.

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