

MEDICINE

Senator Pushes "Cure"

Sen. Tobey has demanded approval by medical profession of "cure" for cancer now being investigated by Massachusetts Medical Society.

► SEN. CHARLES W. Tobey (R., N.H.) has demanded of the medical profession that it approve a "cure" for cancer and other diseases.

Recently he requested representatives of the Medical Division of the National Research Council to appear before him. He wanted to know, according to Dr. Milton C. Winternitz, director of the NRC Medical Division who went to Capitol Hill, why his organization could not investigate this "cure" in a few days and come up with an answer. He has made similar requests to many medical schools.

The "hearing" which Sen. Tobey held, without sanction by the Senate, was conducted largely by the Senator's son, Charles W. Tobey, Jr., who has been treated for a form of cancer by Dr. Robert E. Lincoln, Medford, Mass.

Mr. Tobey, Jr., is one of the three persons who signed a declaration of trust for the "Lincoln Foundation Trust" to receive the inventions, for which patents have been applied, for the "cure" of cancer, tuberculosis and other diseases.

Sen. Tobey has been extensively using the appendix of the Congressional Record to inform the public about this "cure".

Five pages, in two days, have been devoted to letters, addresses and general extensions of remarks about the "cure" promoted by Dr. Lincoln.

The Massachusetts Medical Society has been conducting an extensive investigation of this "cure," although it is hampered by a lack of the kind of information needed for investigations of this kind. However, the society expects to get out a report shortly.

Procedures have been carefully worked out for the investigation of the purported cure of any disease, Dr. Winternitz explained to SCIENCE SERVICE. He emphasized that these procedures are followed no matter who sponsors the cure, established scientists, doctors or others.

First, he explained, the material used for the alleged cure must be available to the investigators. Then, it must be established that it is not poisonous. After that, the investigators conduct a series of experiments to find out what the material will do to animals with the same diseases.

Only then is the material tried on human beings. These experiments must be conducted by objective personnel with no vested interest for or against the proposed

therapy. There must be an adequate number of cases tested, an adequate number of "controls" or patients with the same disease not given the treatment, and an adequate amount of time given to the tests. In addition rigid laboratory procedures must be followed which will serve as a check on the objectivity of the investigators.

The substance used by Dr. Lincoln to "cure" a long list of diseases is a bacteriophage—a substance which kills bacteria. It was made from the pus found in a frontal sinus.

The effect of bacteriophage on bacteria was discovered in 1912 by d'Herelle. It has not, however, to date been applied to so many seemingly unrelated diseases.

Dr. Winternitz expressed sympathy for Sen. Tobey. He would express no opinion as to the merits of Dr. Lincoln's treatment, preferring to wait until the report from the Massachusetts Medical Society is available. He pointed out, however, that the National Research Council is not a government organization and, therefore, not answerable to Congress. The NRC, he said, can undertake investigations only for its sponsoring bodies—those who pay the bills.

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INVENTION

More Passenger Rooms In Railroad Sleeping Cars

► FROM 36 to 42 persons can be accommodated and can sleep in their own private rooms on passenger trains, according to patent number 2,583,960 issued to Goodrich K. Murphy, New Canaan, Conn., and assigned to the Budd Company, Philadelphia, makers of railroad cars.

Science News Letter, February 16, 1952

TECHNOLOGY

Radio from Airplane Guides Parachuted Boat to Rescue

► A RESCUE airplane can parachute a lifeboat near wreck survivors struggling in the water below and then guide it by radio control unerringly to them.

An electrical control system for this purpose has just been developed by Westinghouse Electric Corporation's transformer division, tested on Lake Pymatuning near Sharon, Pa., and accepted by the U. S. Air Force.

The new system uses the radio signal from the air to control the engine and equipment for driving and steering the boat. When boarded by those rescued, control and steering can be taken over by those aboard.

The rescue boat that is air-dropped and then radio controlled is 30 feet long, weighs 3,500 pounds, holds 15 people and has provisions for 10 days and fuel for 800 miles.

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RADIO-CONTROLLED LIFEBOAT—The fin-like contraption on the stern of this radio-controlled lifeboat helps keep it upright when it is dropped by parachute. The fins are discarded by remote control after the boat lands in water and the craft is then steered to the side of stranded survivors.