

MEDICINE

Report on Lincoln Methods

Lincoln methods of treating many ills produce no "beneficial organic changes" in patients, medical group finds after seven months' study.

► THE LINCOLN methods of treatment of cancer, tuberculosis, multiple sclerosis and other diseases have not helped any patients to recover.

This is the conclusion of the Massachusetts Medical Society which has had a committee investigating and studying the methods of treatment continuously for seven months.

The treatments, which make use of a bacteriophage, were developed by Dr. Robert E. Lincoln of West Medford, Mass. The study was instituted by agreement with Dr. Lincoln on June 27, 1951.

U. S. Senator Charles W. Tobey (R., N. H.) has been demanding that the medical profession investigate, approve and use these methods of treatment.

The conclusions of the medical society's committee were announced by Dr. W. Richard Ohler, Boston, president of the Massachusetts Medical Society. At the same time Dr. Ohler announced that Dr. Lincoln had been asked to resign from the Massachusetts Medical Society. The resignation was requested on unanimous vote of the society's committee on ethics and discipline after the committee had unanimously voted that Dr. Lincoln was "guilty as charged" with violation of the code of ethics binding on physicians, fellows of the Massachusetts Medical Society. It was pointed out that this decision does not affect Dr. Lincoln's status as a physician licensed to practice in Massachusetts.

Senator Tobey has served as chairman of the advisory board of the Lincoln Foundation Trust, established by Dr. Lincoln, his brother, Charles E. Lincoln, and Senator Tobey's son, Charles W. Tobey, Jr., lawyer of Concord, N. H.

Mr. Tobey, Jr., reported in a letter inserted in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD last June that he had received the Lincoln treatments after a long period of other treatment and hospitalization for cancer. He stated in June that he could not say the Lincoln treatments were "totally responsible" for his state of good health but that he thought them worthy of investigation.

The official wording of the Massachusetts Medical Society's report on its investigation of the Lincoln treatments is "that no proof has been presented nor was any able to be obtained which has shown that beneficial organic changes have occurred in disease processes treated by Dr. Lincoln's therapy which have been due to that therapy and to that alone."

By "beneficial organic changes" is meant changes of a healing nature in body tissues

in contrast to changes for the better in a patient's feelings. Experienced doctors know that starting a new treatment often is enough to make a patient feel better temporarily because of the hope a new treatment gives, even when the treatment does not have any effect on his sickness.

Among the thousands of patients Dr. Lincoln claims to have treated, the medical society was able to obtain definite information on the following:

Nine patients from Boston Sanatorium at Mattapan, all definitely diagnosed as having active pulmonary tuberculosis, all treated by Dr. Lincoln. Of these, two are dead, five are worse and two have continued improvement which was already established under sanatorium treatment with streptomycin.

Of the cancer cases cited in the report, four are dead and the others show improvement not attributable wholly to Dr. Lincoln's treatment.

Two patients with multiple sclerosis. One has relapsed to a greater degree than before seeing Dr. Lincoln and in addition has suffered loss of vision. The other, with symptoms of visual difficulty, was presented as "almost cured," but could not see two-inch letters with the right eye.

Discussing bacteriophage, which Dr. Lincoln uses in his treatment, the medical society report points out that this is "not entirely a harmless method of treatment."

Senator Tobey has charged that three patients died because the supply of treatment material, being made in a Boston medical school, was cut off. The medical society's investigation shows that although this material was not allowed to be delivered for a 48-hour period, enough was supplied before and after that period to more than make up the usual quantity.

The deaths referred to by Senator Tobey were of patients treated at a Lincoln "affiliate" institution in Corning, Ark. The Lincoln Foundation "Research Fellow" in charge of the treatments is a "Dr." J. S. Schirmer who apparently was a graduate of the Kansas City College of Medicine and Surgery, Kansas City, Mo., which has been exposed as a "diploma mill." His license to practice medicine in Arkansas is on the basis of reciprocity with Connecticut in 1921. But a grand jury investigation in Connecticut in 1924 resulted in the revocation of 175 fraudulent licenses, including that of Jacob Schirmer.

Jacob Schirmer, now a proponent of the Lincoln treatment methods, has reported previously that he has cured cancer with the Koch method. William Koch has been charged by the U. S. Food and Drug Administration with false and misleading label representations regarding his claims to curing cancer.

Chemists who analyzed the Koch cancer "cure" material reported it had the same composition as distilled water.

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WORMY WORLD MAP—Dr. Jacques May checks the U. S. rate of trichinosis on a new map recording the world distribution of worm parasites which cause human disease. Dr. May, author of the map, is head of the medical geography department of the American Geographical Society.