

MEDICINE

Predict 235,000 Cancer Deaths in U. S. in 1955

► **CANCER WILL** kill about 235,000 men, women and children in the United States this year, statisticians at the National Cancer Institute, Bethesda, Md., estimate.

In a report prepared at the request of SCIENCE SERVICE, the government cancer statisticians said there will be 263,500 new cases of cancer discovered in men and boys in the United States during 1955, with 120,000 deaths.

In women and girls, 286,500 new cancer cases are expected with 115,000 deaths.

Cancer of the digestive system will account for about 45% of the cancer deaths in males and about 35% of the cancer deaths in females this year. The digestive system, in these figures, includes esophagus, or gullet, stomach, intestines and colon.

These figures show cancer of the digestive system to be the leading cause of cancer deaths. The government statisticians expect 87,500 new cases of cancer of this system to be discovered in males in 1955, with 54,000 deaths, and 70,000 new cases in females with 41,000 deaths.

Science News Letter, April 16, 1955

PSYCHOLOGY

"What People Think" Leads to Lock-Step Life

► A "WHAT will people think" disease is driving us all, cab driver as well as scientist, toward straitjacketed thinking and lock-step living, Dr. F. H. Sanford, executive secretary of the American Psychological Association, told a workshop on anti-intel-

lectualism of the American Civil Liberties Union meeting in Washington.

Scientists in a democratic society have a special responsibility to combat this pressure toward conformity and to do what they can to tell people about their work, Dr. Sanford said. Psychologists have a special need to avoid the hoarding of knowledge and the cultivation of mystery.

"They must do what they can," he said, "to insure that knowledge of people is also knowledge for people."

The national security problem is compli-

cated by the fact that no precise methods are known for determining who is, and who is not, a "security risk."

Since such scientific methods are not available, security procedures are "influenced by politics, by the climate of opinion, and by any hysterical wind that blows."

The climate of opinion "clearly has an anti-intellectual flavor that influences not only the workings of the security system but also the workings of individual American minds," Dr. Sanford said.

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Questions

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