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never seen from earth, revealing that there are fewer seas and more mountainous areas in those parts than on the visible side.

Luna 5, 6 and 7, the Soviet Union's three attempts at the world's first unmanned lunar "soft landing," all failed and crashed, although the last was reported to have its speed considerably reduced before impact.

Atlas-Centaur, the booster assigned to carry a succession of Surveyor unmanned spacecraft to the moon, scored a success with AC-6, delivering a dummy craft to an imaginary moon 240,000 miles out in space.

The Titan III-C, the Air Force's super-workhorse, carried a 21,000-pound dummy payload through a virtually flawless first flight, giving hope to scientists working on the Manned Orbiting Laboratory (MOL), which will probably be the III-C's first important passenger.

The IQSY Solar Explorer satellite was launched in November to measure and monitor solar X-ray emissions during the final portion of the International Years of the Quiet Sun; the international scientific community acquired data directly from the satellite.

The second Orbiting Solar Observatory (OSO 2), part of the U.S. contribution to IQSY, was placed in orbit with six of its eight experiments working, including solar X-rays, gamma ray and ultraviolet radiation monitors.

TIROS 9 (Television Infra-Red Observa-tion Satellite), the first "cartwheel" satellite of the series, "rolls" in an elliptical orbit rather than circular as intended, taking pictures with its one operational camera.

TIROS 10, with both cameras working, brought the total number of working TIROS stations to four, since numbers 7, 8 and 9 are still operating.

The United States launched the first nuclear space reactor, SNAP 10A, into orbit aboard an Atlas-Agena booster, where it proved the possibilities of atomic power as an energy source in space.

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration correlated data from Pegasus satellites 1 and 2, each with huge 96-foot "wings," and concluded that meteoroids "probably will not be unduly hazardous" to spacemen.

Lawyers from countries around the world emphasized the need for an international code of space laws at a conference on World Peace Through Law.

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The 160-million-horsepower Saturn S-1C, biggest booster the United States has yet produced, and first-stage-to-be for the Apollo lunar flight, was successfully test fired several times.

The Manned Orbiting Laboratory, which will keep two men in orbit for a month, was authorized and the contract for building it awarded.

Several kinds of plants were raised under a simulated Martian environment and shown to be able to survive with no oxygen and almost no water at all.

A recovery system utilizing parachutes that brings expensive research balloons back to earth for further use was developed.

• Science News Letter, 88:389 December 18, 1965

## MEDICINE

### Approve Treating Cancer in Pregnancy

► IT IS NOT A SIN in the Catholic Church to treat cervical cancer in a pregnant woman even though it may result in the death of the baby. This is because the primary purpose of treatment is to cure the cancer and not to kill the unborn child, a symposium in Philadelphia was told.

The desire for a child on the part of the parents, however, may cause them to delay treatment of cervical cancer until the baby can be born by caesarean operation.

In any case, said Dr. Richard E. Symmonds, Mayo Clinic and Mayo Foundation surgeon, Rochester, Minn., if such a cancer is discovered late in pregnancy or in the immediate period following birth, the outlook for the mother's recovery is poor.

Some physicians are neglecting the opportunity to make early diagnoses of malignancy in the neck of the womb. Although taking cell smears at the time a woman is examined for the existence of pregnancy in no way endangers the pregnancy, such doctors do not make this easy test.

Pregnancy itself does not appear to affect malignancy, but as in the case of non-pregnant women, early treatment is advisable. Approximately one percent of cervical cancers occur in pregnant women, complicating about one in each 2,000 to 3,000 pregnancies.

Unfortunately, no one doctor has had sufficient personal experience with the management of cervical cancer in the pregnant woman to allow a valid opinion on how best to proceed, Dr. Symmonds told the Hahnemann Medical College symposium on new concepts in gynecological oncology, or science of tumors.

Treatment of some type should be started immediately when cervical cancer is discovered, Dr. Symmonds recommended. If parents prefer to wait a few weeks however, he said it would be advisable to delay radiation treatment for fear of harming the fetus.

If the baby is born by caesarean section, a radical hysterectomy should be performed afterward, with pelvic node dissection. This procedure has been criticized in the past by other gynecologists, Dr. Symmonds said, but it now has a number of strong supporters.

• Science News Letter, 88:398 December 18, 1965