

MEDICINE

X-Ray "Baths" Now Possible For Patients With Tumors

X-RAY "BATHS," which irradiate the whole body of the patient for long periods, instead of attacking local spots intensely but briefly, are now available at Memorial Hospital, New York City. They are designed for the treatment of patients suffering deep tumors.

The new set-up for tumor treatment was described before the American Association for the Advancement of Science by Dr. G. Failla. Dr. Failla paid a tribute to the memory of his colleague, the late Dr. Arthur C. Heublein of Hartford, Conn., who supplied both the means and the technical knowledge in the development of this special ward, and in the end sacrificed his life to it through illness induced by overwork.

The ward consists of four beds arranged about an X-Ray machine capable of continuous operation at 185,000 volts and three milliamperes. The patients are kept bathed in its continuous discharge.

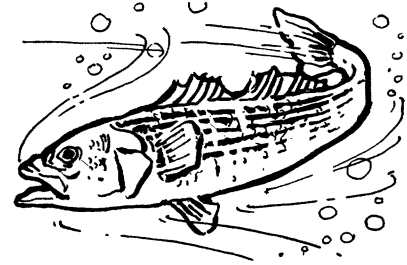
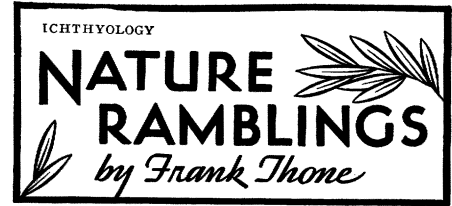
It is too early as yet, Dr. Failla said, to permit the clinicians at the hospital to draw definite conclusions as to the efficacy of the new method. However, he continued, some striking results have been obtained in a few cases of generalized radiosensitive tumors, which could not have been obtained by the ordinary methods of X-ray therapy.

At the same symposium with Dr.

Failla, Dr. H. J. Bagg, also of Memorial Hospital, told of animal experiments performed in this same X-ray "bath." Mice with transplantable tumors have been exposed to the radiation for several weeks, with the result that their life has been prolonged very materially. This has been accomplished without apparent ill effects, since the body weight has remained normal.

Another line of research at Memorial Hospital described by Dr. Failla has been an attack on the problem of the best kind of X-rays to use on various kinds of tumors, and the most favorable times of exposure. It has long been established, he said, that gamma rays from radium are in general more effective than X-rays. The new research has shown that the shorter and "harder" the X-rays are, the more nearly they approach the effectiveness of gamma rays. This was to be expected on theoretical grounds, since gamma rays are the same kind of radiation that X-rays are, only of very much shorter wavelength and considerably more penetrating. The new 700,000-volt X-ray tube in use at the Memorial Hospital gives radiations approaching gamma rays in their nature; and Dr. Failla expressed the opinion that even more powerful tubes are needed, especially for attack on deep tumors.

Science News Letter, July 16, 1932



Striped Bass

WHEN the trout goes to sea he becomes a salmon, but the sea-going bass remains a bass. With more room to turn around in, the bass that go to sea often become very big fellows, as witness the great Jewfish of California and Florida waters, that get to be longer than a man and reach weights of a quarter of a ton or more.

But perhaps the finest of these salt-water bass is the rockfish, or striped bass. He grows big enough for any angler who doesn't go in for giant-killing, for he reaches a weight of a hundred pounds or so in extreme cases, and is always of sufficient size to test the strength of a rod and the skill of him that wields it. David Starr Jordan seconds Genio Scott in vouching for his aggressiveness and willingness to fight.

The striped bass is a very handsome fish, slender enough to be graceful, solid enough to give the appearance of strength. His general color is olivaceous, with silvery sides and black stripes along his back.

About 1880 the U. S. Fish Commission introduced this fine fish into the Sacramento River, where it is now very abundant and has large commercial importance.

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The Greek government has ordered that after October first all canned goods sold in that country must bear the date of packing.

Tom Thumb Geyser in Yellowstone National Park has a cone only three feet high.

The male frilled lizard has around his neck a big frill which opens and shuts umbrella-fashion.

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