

MEDICINE

Story Starts Cancer Gift

Jackson Memorial Laboratory, where mice are bred for cancer research, received \$50,000 as a result of a Science Service story, to rebuild its fire-ravaged buildings.

► HOW a Science Service story in a Florida newspaper, the *St. Petersburg Times*, brought \$50,000 to aid an internationally famous cancer research laboratory was told by Dr. C. C. Little, director of the Roscoe B. Jackson Memorial Laboratory, and Mrs. Evelyn B. Monaco, of Gallup, N. Mex., at a meeting in Washington of the Ladies Auxiliary, Veterans of Foreign Wars.

The story was one in which a Science Service writer reported that medical authorities expected the search for a cancer cure to be slowed for years because forest fires had destroyed the Jackson Laboratory at Bar Harbor, Me., and its invaluable collection of mice specially bred for cancer research. (See *SNL*, Nov. 8, 1947).

When Mrs. Anna Mae Shaw of St. Petersburg, a past commander of the Ladies Auxiliary, V. F. W., read that Science Service story, she immediately clipped it from her newspaper and sent it to Mrs. Monaco. Mrs. Monaco is chairman of the organization's cancer research fellowship fund.

Mrs. Monaco and Dr. Little reported that the gift, which may reach \$500,000, will go to rebuild the summer students' laboratory, dining hall and three residence halls.

The money will be collected entirely within the membership of the Ladies Auxiliary, V. F. W. Each of the 500,000 members will be asked to contribute one dollar. The initial gift of \$50,000 will be made this year and the group expects to continue its aid for the next two at least.

The plan for the organization to aid cancer research was started by Mrs. Dorothy Mann of Kansas City, Mo., at its last annual encampment in late August, 1947.

Mrs. Monaco, the wife of a surgeon who is a member of his state committee of the American Cancer Society, was looking "for a place to center our interests," she said, when she received from Mrs. Shaw the Science Service story clipped from a newspaper. She wrote Dr. Little at once, received his thanks and acceptance within three days, and after further conference the plans were

worked out. This is the first time the Ladies Auxiliary, V. F. W., has undertaken a program of aid outside the organization.

Their minimum initial gift of \$50,000 will be enough to have the school built by next summer, Dr. Little said. Present plans, he pointed out, call for a laboratory where 40 students can work, a dining and recreation hall and residence halls built in a quadrangle to be known as the Ladies Auxiliary, V.F.W., Summer Research Laboratory. Simple, one-story wooden buildings that need no heating plant are planned. This type of construction makes possible maximum speed at minimum cost.

The summer laboratory has been training promising young men and women for the cancer fight for 18 summers. For the same length of time, Dr.

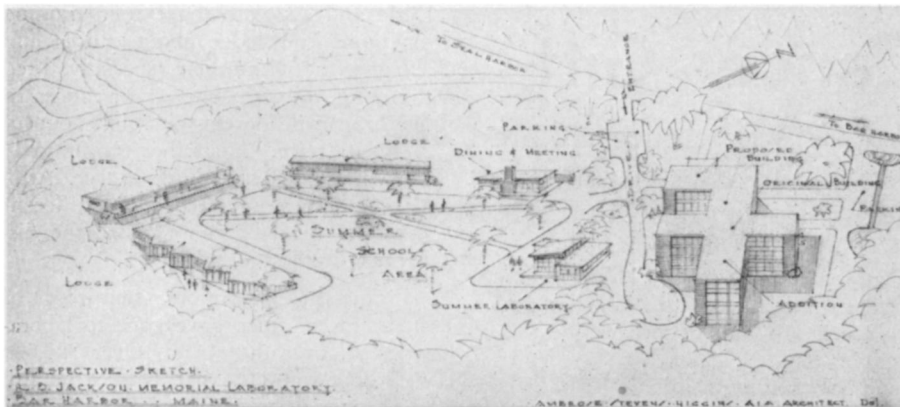
Little and associates have been digging for more knowledge about cancer and its growth with their specially bred strains of mice. In one strain cancer of the lung will develop in eight out of every 10 mice. In another strain, only one in a 1,000 get lung cancer. Altogether there were mice of 20 different strains at the laboratory before the disastrous fire last October.

From this laboratory hundreds of thousands of mice have gone to laboratories all over the world. Over 300,000 were sent out last year before the fire in October destroyed the laboratory and most of the mice. They were used for research on influenza, pneumonia, tuberculosis, rabies, yellow fever and infantile paralysis as well as for cancer fighting.

One wing of the main laboratory that was left standing and part of another have been restored enough for Dr. Little and associates to continue their work. Still needed, however, is \$200,000 to match the same amount offered by the National Cancer Institute for completely rebuilding the laboratory. Funds are also needed to replace the library and to build residence bungalows for visiting



MAKING RESEARCH PLANS—A project for building a great summer training center at the Roscoe B. Jackson Memorial Laboratory, Bar Harbor, Me., is examined by (L to R) Mrs. Helen M. Murphy, Union, N. J., national senior vice-president, Ladies Auxiliary, V. F. W.; Mrs. Evelyn B. Monaco, Gallup, N. Mex., junior vice-president; Dr. C. C. Little, director of the Jackson Laboratory; and Miss Jane Stafford, Science Service Medical Writer. A story by Miss Stafford inspired the \$50,000 gift.



CANCER-FIGHTING CENTER—In the quadrangle at the left will be the laboratory for 40 students, dining and recreation hall, and residence lodges of the new summer school for student cancer fighters. At the right is the large building to house the laboratories, offices and famous mice of the Roscoe B. Jackson Memorial Laboratory. Not shown in the drawing but also planned if funds can be raised will be bungalows for visiting cancer researchers and their families.

scientists and their families and for an endowment for upkeep of the laboratory.

A summer center for cancer researchers from all over the world to work and

exchange ideas will develop if the hopes of Dr. Little, the American Cancer Society and the National Cancer Institute are fulfilled.

Science News Letter, January 24, 1948

MEDICINE

New Blood Center Starts

It will collect, process and distribute the blood free to those who need it. Rochester is first on this national life-saving program.

► MEN and women of Rochester, N. Y. and surrounding counties got the opportunity to be first to take part in a new life-saving, disease-fighting venture when Basil O'Connor, American Red Cross president, opened and dedicated the Rochester Regional Blood Center under the new national blood program.

Next time one of them reads in his newspaper that the life of someone in the region, an accident victim or a mother in childbirth, has been saved by a blood transfusion, he can say to himself, "I may have saved that life. It might have been my blood that was used."

The center will collect, process and distribute blood from and to the people of Rochester and the 11 counties in this region. Other centers, from here to California, will open rapidly one after another during the next few months.

The set-up is like that under which the Red Cross collected blood to save our wounded fighting men during the war. But it is a vastly expanded pro-

gram that is now getting under way. Civilians, as well as patients in Army, Navy and Veterans hospitals, will get the blood when they need it.

Bloodmobiles will go out into rural areas to collect blood and bring it to the regional center for processing. They will return it to hospitals and doctors serving rural areas for the benefit of people living there.

The blood will be free, a gift really from the hearts of Americans to their fellow-Americans in desperate need. The only charge will be whatever the hospital or doctor gets for the transfusion service.

Providing whole red blood for life-saving transfusions is the first aim of the program. But as the blood pours in and the banks grow full, some of it will be separated into fractions for fighting disease.

This is a measles year. Tens of thousands of children will catch this disease, but with the aid of one blood fraction, they can be protected against a severe

attack and its dangerous complications. Patients with hemophilia, others with a kind of kidney disease, still others having surgical operations can also be helped by different parts of the blood separated by methods devised by Dr. Edwin J. Cohn of Harvard.

Blood may have still undiscovered uses in fighting disease and death, Mr. O'Connor pointed out in his dedication of the center.

"All of us," he said, "I think have a strong feeling that this dedication is a milestone in the medical history of the country and in the improvement of healing and restorative facilities for our citizens. But none of us can foresee what tremendous scientific gains may result from the national blood program."

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