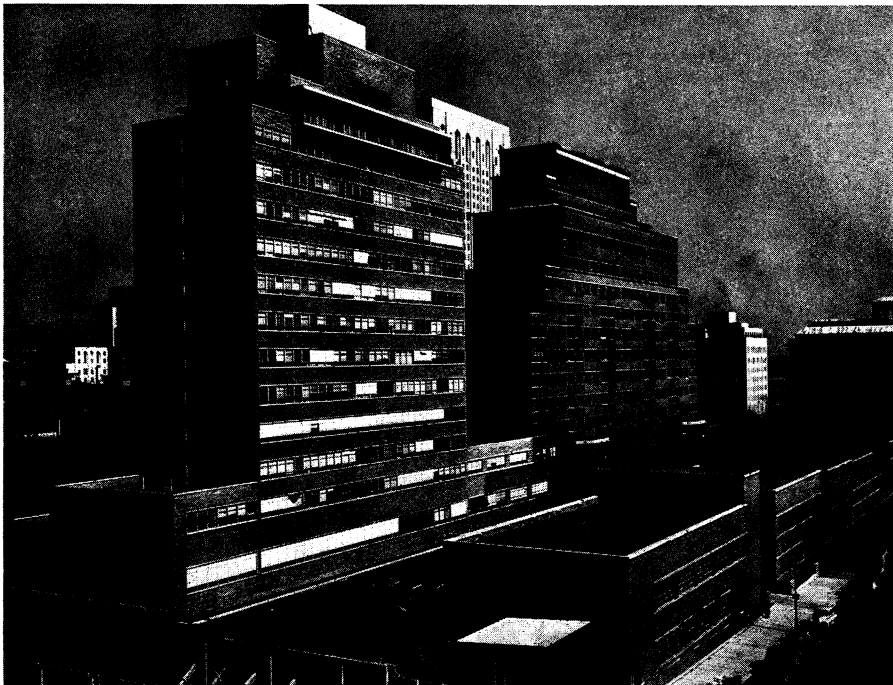




MEMORIAL CENTER—Left to right are the Sloan-Kettering Institute and Memorial Hospital, while in the foreground can be seen the Strang Prevention Clinic.

MEDICINE

Plan for Cancer Attack

Opening of Sloan-Kettering Institute for Cancer Research, with its cancer war plan calling for a push on six fronts, may lead to finding cure for disease.

➤ THE world's best chance for finding a cancer cure may come from the recent opening in New York of the Sloan-Kettering Institute for Cancer Research. For this is not just a 14-story pile of bricks and steel and glassware and microscopes. It is a method and an idea and a world-wide cancer war plan. The strategies devised there may bring victories in battles fought by cancer patients and their doctors all over the world.

The idea of fighting cancer according to a plan instead of by haphazard skirmishes on this or that front comes from Dr. C. P. Rhoads, director of the new institute and allied Memorial Hospital.

Many persons, scientists as well as laymen, think it impossible to fight cancer through a plan or program because, as they put it, "cancer is as mysterious as life itself." To this objection Dr. Rhoads says, "That's just nuts." More formally, he points out that cancer, in light of modern knowledge, is "not necessarily less vulnerable or more mys-

terious than many other problems with which science has been confronted and which it has solved in the past."

The Sloan-Kettering Institute cancer war plan calls for a special push on each of six fronts. In each of these special areas, Dr. Rhoads believes, enough has been learned, enough progress has been made, to justify intensive efforts. The six are:

1. Steroid hormones. These include the sex hormones, known to be important in cancer, and certain "mismanufactured" hormones discovered in cancer patients.

2. Biophysics. Searching for better radioactive chemicals to treat cancer and developing equipment for their study and use come under this program.

3. Clinical investigation.

4. Protein chemistry. The proteins in the nucleus of cells are involved in both cancer and normal growth. A push here may show how to control the abnormal growth or perhaps to destroy the

cancer by getting radioactivity right into its nucleus.

5. Experimental chemotherapy, which includes testing every kind of chemical that might be a cancer remedy.

6. Experimental pathology. From this front may come cancer detection tests and methods for inducing cancer tissues to take up much larger amounts of poisons or radioactive chemicals than normal cells do.

Science News Letter, April 24, 1948

ASTRONOMY

Booby Traps and Inflation Complicate Eclipse Study

➤ WATCHING an eclipse isn't all telescopes and cameras. American astronomers are contending with:

Booby traps and land mines.

Skyrocketing inflation.

Capital city mapped as several hundred feet southeast of its true position.

All seven expeditions of the National Geographic Society for studying the annular solar eclipse on May 8-9 have now reached assigned observation sites. They are in Burma, Siam, China, Japan, Korea and the Aleutians but one group was forced to find new quarters.

The hazard of hidden explosives left behind on the mountainous Kiska volcano, when the Japanese invaders secretly evacuated the island in 1943, made it dangerous for the party to camp as planned on the volcano slopes at the north end of the island. The Kiska site was finally abandoned, the party moving to Adak some 275 miles east of Kiska. This gives the Society two observing teams on Adak, another group having previously been assigned to the island.

The accepted position of Tokyo, starting point of all surveys of Japan and Korea, is several hundred feet southeast of its true position. This error was caused by the unusual shape of the land masses near Tokyo—high mountains on the north and west, deep sea to the south and east—that cause the transit measurements to be slightly off. Observing sites in Tenan, Korea, and Rebun Jima, Japan, had to be replotted on the map.

Pouring rain greeted the expedition at Wu-k'ang, China, about 35 miles west of Hangchow. The last of the seven expeditions to reach assigned observation sites, the party here is having to pay Chinese workers, hired to help pitch the expedition's camp, \$240,000 per day in Chinese currency.

Science News Letter, April 24, 1948