

Makers of Cancer 'Cures' Cry 'Everybody Is Against Me'

Editor's note: This is the second of three dispatches written by Helena Frost of the American Cancer Society reporting on cancer quackery.

By HELENA FROST
Written for
"United Press International"

"Everybody is against me." The plaint of the cancer quack is repeated often, individually and collectively.

Who is the "everybody"? Generally anybody who seeks to protect the public from "cures" that can kill the early cancer patient. Specifically, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), the American Medical Association, the National Cancer Institute, the American Cancer Society and the Damon Runyon Fund.

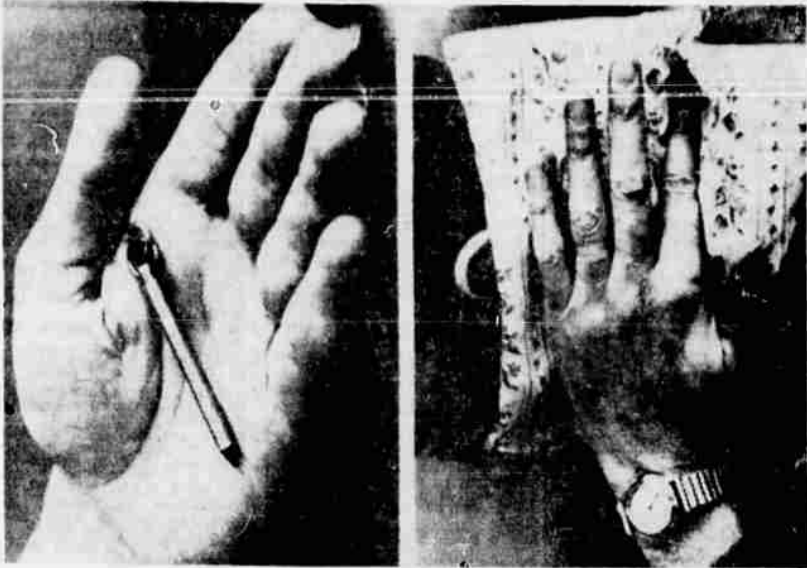
Sometimes one, sometimes all are in the line of fire from the rostrums of public meetings, the bombardment of leaflets and pseudo-scientific magazines, the heavy guns of lobbies in Congress and state legislatures.

Take the statement made to this reporter by Fred J. Hart, president of both the National Health Federation, and of the Electronic Medical Foundation, whose "misbranded devices" have been barred from interstate commerce by a court injunction.

Tests Said Avoided
"You would assume," said Hart, "if I had developed something that I could go to a university with \$50,000 and have it tried. No institution in the United States exists that could do it, except those that are under the American Medical Association medical plan. And these men, who make their living by practicing medicine or teaching it, will condemn anything that is unorthodox without testing it."

(The Albert Abrams devices, which were promoted by the Electronic Medical Foundation, were tested and exposed by the American Medical Association.)

But listen to the facts of cancer chemotherapy, as outlined by Dr. Stuart M. Sessoms, chief of the Cancer Chemotherapy National Service Center (CCNSC) in Bethesda, Md., during an interview. "Anybody can come to us to have a material checked for anti-cancer properties," said the scientist, "but he must meet our simple criteria. They aren't designed to keep any-



CANCER 'CURES'—Despite warnings by distinguished physicians, reputable medical associations and federal authorities, thousands of sufferers from cancer and other diseases turn each year to groups and individuals who promise "cures." Two such devices are shown. At left is a "vibrilium" spike,

which sold for \$306 and contained, analysis showed, 1/200th of one per cent of barium chloride. At right is a pad supposed to contain uranium ore, for "radiation cures." It gives off no more radiation than the luminous wristwatch dial in the photo-fortunate-

ly for the gullible purchaser. (UPI Telephoto)

one from our screening program, but to meet our scientific needs. You can't just take a witch's brew and try it.

"On the other hand we even explore the old folklore type of thing. We know that most of the materials that come to us are no good, but we don't know which one might be."

Another of Hart's statements was that "nobody in organized medicine wants to find a cancer cure." But, here are a few facts and figures about the CCNSC:

About 40,000 chemical compounds are screened yearly.

In 1960 nearly \$30 million will be spent on this work.

About 500 clinical investigators and several hundred biochemists and biologists are looking for what "nobody wants."

The CCNSC was launched in 1955 to accelerate the search for anti-cancer drugs, a quantitative program of controlled experiments and coordinated results. It spreads from the center in the heart of the National Institutes of Health to all parts of the country and to other countries, for there are no boundaries in the

common offensive against the common enemy. And there are no pressure groups. The CCNSC is jointly sponsored by federal agencies and voluntary health organizations, including the National Cancer Institute, the Veteran's Administration, the Food and Drug Administration, the Atomic Energy Commission, the American Cancer Society and the Damon Runyon Fund.

Must Try on Animals
Dr. Sessoms described the criteria for testing:

"If you bring us a material, we have to know what it is—in order to reproduce it in quantity for screening. Then you must agree to our trying it first on animals—because we risk nothing on man, not even on advanced cancer cases in the clinic, until the material has come through our animal tests. We never use a material on early cases, because the patient must have the benefit of surgery or radiation—they're still the only certain ways of saving life.

"Of course we don't allow the proponent to take part in the testing of his material. That's as essential to impar-

tiality as is the fact that our scientists approach the screening without bias, swayed by nothing but a profound need to find a cancer cure.

"We listen to any information we can get, but we don't let it affect our own testing of the material."

Must Submit Data
The same criteria have been set up by the National Cancer Institute for the testing of unorthodox remedies offered as effective treatment of cancer. When a sponsor claims the remedy is curative, he must submit detailed previous data to merit consideration.

Any material that meets the requirements of the CCNSC is given the three-animal test. Dr. Sessoms calls it "the three blind mice." He elaborated:

"This test is simply to find out if we have some oddity here, something a little bit different. We try the material on three mouse tumors: sarcoma 180, found in white Swiss mice, and carcinoma 755 and leukemia L1210, both found in hybrid mice. After it is passed through the mouse system three times, and if it has even the slightest benefi-

Staphylococcus Thrives Despite Science Assaults

By DELOS SMITH
UPI Science Editor

New York—(UPI)—Medical science won't be astonished but you will be by the new evidence of how well staphylococcus bacteria are doing despite years of assaults by the antibiotics and better and better antiseptic techniques.

Sixteen months after an outbreak of staphylococcal skin disease in a hospital nursery had been conquered and the new-born infants went home with their mothers, two scientists checked to see if there had been an aftermath. There had been, in plenty.

Still Carried Bacteria
Sixteen months afterward 26 infants still carried the bacteria which had been responsible for the outbreak. Furthermore, 12 mothers, two fathers, and 23 brothers and sisters also carried them. They had acquired them from the babies. Babies, children and adults were "carriers," without being sick.

While in the nursery, only 12 of 94 infants had had the skin disease. But after leaving the hospital, 31 more came down with it in time-bomb attacks, as it were. The mothers of 18 infants acquired staphylococcal illness, too, along with 10 fathers and 20 brothers and sisters.

Drs. Valerie Hurst and Moss Grossman of the University of California Medical Center, San Francisco, supervised this large-scale swabbing of body parts for lingering staphylococci in order to verify the suspicion that babies may leave hospitals as carriers and for many months afterward pass their bacteria on to everyone around them.

Capacity to Persist
"No other micro-organism can compare with the staphylococcus in its capacity to persist as a parasite in individuals or communities," remarked the authoritative medical science journal, "The Lancet." It cited older studies that proved some people have been carriers for as long as six years.

The trouble is that many strains are now resistant to most if not all the antibiotics, particularly those strains which maintain themselves in hospitals. Staphylococcus' strength is its ability to change its chemical nature enough by mutation to live despite an antibiotic.

Albany Girl, 18, Drowns in Surf
Newport—(UPI)—A teen-age beach party turned to tragedy in the surf near here Sunday when Judith Ann Pearl, 18, of Albany drowned despite desperate attempts of five companions to save her.

Two girl companions, Carol Marie Lewis, 16, and Sandra Sue Johnson, 18, both of Albany, were taken to Newport hospital in shock following the accident.

Three boys in the party, William Rex Hivley, 19, and Ralph Eugene Harvey, 19, both of Denver, Colo.; and Dwayne Armstrong, 19, Derby, Colo., managed to get one of the girls to shore but could not save Miss Pearl.

Earlier, the youngest girl, Carol Lewis, said she felt an undertow and made it to shore on her own.

beyond doubt that we are safeguarded against science-in-a-hurry. But what about the quack in a hurry to cash in? Dr. Sessoms said drily:

"You don't cook this up overnight and have it for breakfast. From the time you begin a new material on the mice and put it into the first person in the clinic, it takes between two to two-and-a-half years."

Next: The "wonderful" machine that could diagnose diseases by "tuning in" on blood samples received through the mail.

Ex-Greek Minister Commits Suicide

Ankara—(UPI)—Former Interior minister Namik Gedik, whose police battled students demonstrating against the government of former Premier Adnan Menderes, committed suicide Sunday night after a "nervous fit," an army announcement said today.

EDITOR'S WIDOW DIES
San Francisco—(UPI)—Funeral services were held Monday for Mrs. Edith L. Marshall, widow of former United Press Far East correspondent and Pacific editor Ray G. Marshall. Mrs. Marshall, 80, died here Saturday.

Budget Expected To Be in Black

Washington—(UPI)—Budget Director Maurice H. Stans is confident the administration is only a month away from success in a difficult and even daring effort. Some Democrats call it an unwise one.

When the government accounting year ends on June 30, Stans expects the books will close on a 1960 federal budget more than \$217 million in the black.

Last June 30 the government finished fiscal 1959 with a record peacetime deficit of

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TRAIN SERVICE OPENS

London—(UPI)—The first direct London to Moscow train service opened Sunday. The journey will take about 60 hours by boat train to Harwich, England, steamer to the hook of Holland and a through train to Moscow across Holland, Germany and Poland. Twenty passengers made the first trip.

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