

# The Medical Roundup

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## New Facts About Cancer

Releases from the great Sloan-Kettering Institute in New York tell of interesting studies on cancer. As was to be expected, as mice become older, their resistance to transplanted cancer cells drops off. Also, in aging mice, the incidence of tumors that have arisen spontaneously is markedly increased.

We see the same thing in man, where cancers of a certain type rarely show up before the age of 40. As I often say, older persons should be checked every year to make sure that a cancer is not growing silently somewhere in their body.

Today, research workers have at their disposal many drugs called carcinogens—chemicals which can produce cancer if repeatedly rubbed onto the skin or injected into the body of an animal. Recently, it has been found that a carcinogen can change the chromosomes of cells (microscopic bits of tissue which have most to do with determining what the descendants of a cell are going to be). Abnormal chromosomes can produce abnormal cells, and abnormal cells can make a cancer.

An interesting confirmation of an old discovery is that viruses which, by themselves, will not produce cancer, can speed up the appearance of cancer in animals that have been given a carcinogen. This working together of viruses and carcinogens will explain a number of puzzles in regard to the development of cancers. Hopeful always is the discovery of substances which will either retard or block the growth of cancer cells in tissue cultures.

**Grown in Test Tube**  
Today, everyone should know that cancer cells can now be grown in a test tube, much as the normal cells of the skin can grow over a sore and heal it. The cells growing in a test tube are called tissue cultures. They enable experts to tell almost overnight whether a new drug has any tendency to cure cancer. If it hinders, it causes destructive changes in the growing cells. In the old days, when I was young, a drug that was supposed to cure cancer was tested on men and women, and the experimenter had to wait perhaps five years for an answer.

Recently, when experts learned to keep a laboratory full of mice suffering from big cancers, each perhaps as big as a walnut, they were able to tell, in a week or two, if the new drug they were testing was causing the growth to melt away. When a drug has no effect on cancer cells growing in a test tube,

it is not likely to be of any use as a cure for cancer in man, and if it does kill cancer in the tube, this does not necessarily mean that the drug will cure cancer in an animal or in a man.

But it has possibilities—it gives hope, and it must immediately be tested on cancerous mice. If it shrinks their cancers, then it may have to be worked on by chemists and modified until it is safe enough to be used on men and women.

Every so often I get a bitter letter from someone accusing the medical profession of deliberately blocking the development and use of some "secret cancer cure." The people could not be more wrong. Why should doctors ever want to block the use of a cancer cure? With the constant frantic calls for help, we would love, of all things, to have a cure for cancer. As I tell these people who scold me, the supposed cancer cure of their pet cancer treater has been sold for large fees to hundreds of people in the last five or 10 or 15 years, and still, the supposed cure hasn't "gotten going." If the man really wanted to know if his secret remedy was any good, he could send it to Bethesda, Maryland and get a definite answer in a short time. The experts would tell him if it had any effect on cancer cells and on cancerous mice.

**Few Test Samples Sent**  
But though the man will keep begging for recognition of his medicine and his claims, rarely will he send a sample to the government laboratory for testing.

An interesting comment was made by Dr. Michael Shinkin of the National Cancer Institute. He said that now the problem of finding a cure for cancer has been much simplified by all the tremendous amount of work that was done in solving the problem of polio. As he says, "The concentrated attack upon polio has placed the United States in the forefront with techniques of tissue culture, electron microscopy (which makes tiny objects seem larger by 100,000 times), and immunology (the complicated chemistry that causes the tissues of an animal to resist the entrance of a germ, a virus, or a cancer cell).

Dr. Shinkin suspects that

**SUBLET ESTATE**  
Washington (AP)—President and Mrs. Kennedy have sublet their Middleburg, Va., estate to Mrs. Paul Entenman of New York City, sources said today. Mrs. Entenman, though not listed in the Social Register, is known to be a friend of the Paul Mellon's, members of the Kennedy circle. The White House said Friday that Glen Ora estate would be used by friends of the Kennedys during the summer months, but did not identify the tenants.

the triumph over polio will yet have much to do with helping men to solve the problem of cancer.

Dr. Alvarez goes into greater detail about cancer in his booklet, "What We Know About Cancer." To obtain your copy, send 25 cents and a stamped, self-addressed envelope with your request to Dr. Walter C. Alvarez, Dept. MMT, The Register and Tribune Syndicate, Box 957, Des Moines 4, Iowa.

# Child Evaluation Clinic To Begin Third Year Operation

Eugene—Eighty-five per cent of the children examined in a special education evaluation clinic at the University of Oregon school of education have shown improvement, either in behavior or academic achievement or both.

This is the report of accomplishments as the clinic for the evaluation of children with learning problems prepares to begin its third year of operation in the DeBusk Memorial center on the university campus with a \$12,000 grant from the Oregon state department of education. The clinic is operated under a contractual agreement with the state department, which has provided a similar sum for each of the two preceding years.

Problems in reading, behavioral and emotional problems, and underachievement have been the most frequent situations that have prompted teachers to refer children to the clinic, according to Dr. Robert H. Mattson, assistant professor of education and clinic director. Each of these problems accounted for 16 per cent of the total referrals.

Other situations accounting for sizable number of referrals, according to Dr. Mattson, were learning problems associated with the possible need for an accelerated program for the bright child, 12 per cent, and mental retardation, 10 per cent. Other organic problems accounted for only 4 per cent of referrals.

During 1960-61, 47 cases were sent to the clinic, and during the past academic year, about 35 cases have been evaluated. They have come from Lane, Linn, Douglas, Marion, Polk, Lincoln, and Baker counties.

rehabilitation for advice on job placement. Each child seen at the clinic is given a thorough physical and neurological examination by the clinic's medical consultants. The child and his parents visit the clinic at least once for testing and interviews. Much of the work is done in the field with a clinic assistant visiting the child's home and school, and interviewing the family doctor and others who might shed light on the child's problem.

# Your Money's Worth

By SYLVIA PORTER  
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## TIME TABLE FOR SIZZLING SIXTIES

If we'll just have the courage and common sense to do what must be done to spur our economic growth in the next 48 months so we can provide essential jobs for our labor force and essential profits for our businessmen, the United States will have it made.

For, beginning in 1966-67, we'll almost certainly be off on a boom of booms and the long-delayed Sizzling Sixties are then likely to azzle to the point where our primary worry again will be restraining inflation, not fighting deflation.

The reason is simply this: In 1966-67, the tens of millions of babies born in the explosive baby boom of post-World War II will start to reach their late teens and 20s, will be marrying, setting up homes of their own, spending and borrowing to the hilt for every thing and non-thing young brides and grooms need, having babies of their own and in turn, initiating a new bubbling boom.

This is not guesswork. It's implicit in the statistics. We know that this country took off on an unparalleled baby boom in the mid-1940s, that in 1946 the number of births soared to a record 3.4 million; that, with minor setbacks, the total kept climbing until it crossed the 4 million mark in 1954, and that last year another new peak of almost 4.3 million births was chalked up.

We know that the infant mortality rate has been shrinking and that most of the babies born in 1946 will be the 20-year-olds of 1966, and that in the mid-1960s therefore, the marriage rate will be heading toward a generation's peak.

We know that when young folks marry they are avid buyers of all types of hard goods, soft goods, services.

Specific projections for the future are implicit in the statistics of the past too. Our total population will be breaking the 200 million mark as we pass the middle of this decade. The number of Americans in the 18-21 age group will be up almost 50 per cent in the late 1960s, as against a rise of only 6 per cent in this age group in the 1950s. The number in the 20-29 age bracket will be up 40 per cent, as against a decline of 8 per cent in this age category in the 1950s.

The demand for houses will skyrocket and it is not wild imagining to foresee a minimum demand for new houses of 1.5 million to 2-million a year.

The demand for autos will soar and the auto industry finally should break into the 8-million-a-year production and sales level.

The demand for all the hard and soft goods that go into houses will zoom—including the old reliables, plus any new ones off the drawing boards and into the stores by then. At the same time, lots of the stuff we own will be wearing out and there will be an accompanying appliance replacement boom.

The need for additional new factories and additional new machinery will be enormous, and business spending on plants and equipment should be smashing all records in this period. The problem for businessmen who don't awaken to the magnitude of the markets of the late 1960s, until after markets have opened is likely to be financing their expansions.

While all this private spending will be pouring into our economy, government spending at the federal, state and local levels will be reaching new peaks as well. The forces for this already are built in.

It adds up to boom, and possibly dangerous inflation. Simultaneously, there could be serious unemployment unless industry can create the jobs for the seven million who'll be entering the labor market between 1965 and 1970 and unless the workers are trained to fill the jobs that will be available.

It also pounds home the wisdom of intelligent, bold actions immediately to accelerate business spending on new plants and equipment now, not only to help fight slow growth in the early 1960s but also help fight dangerous inflation in the late 1960s.

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