

THE DOCTOR'S MAILBAG

Cause Of Leukemia Baffles Medicine

By W. G. BRANDSTADT, M.D.
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Leukemia has been called "cancer of the blood." This is a misnomer, because the blood only gives your doctor an indication of what is occurring in the blood-forming organs: the marrow, spleen, liver and lymph nodes.

The cause of leukemia is still unknown, but observations of what appears to be the same disease in mice shows that a virus is the cause. Since there are several types of leukemia there are probably two or more leukemia viruses in mice. It does not mean that viruses are the cause in man, but this is the most promising avenue of approach yet found.

It is very important to find the cause, because until we can identify and remove the cause, all efforts at treatment must be aimed at relief of symptoms. Although some persons may live as long as 20 years after this disease is discovered, most of them die within a few months. No confirmed cures have been reported.

Just as paralysis occurs in only a small proportion of persons who harbor polio virus, leukemia occurs in only a small proportion of the mice who harbor the leukemia virus. Such latent viruses are called "perfect parasites" in that they have found a way under normal conditions to live in their animal host without harming him.

It takes some other factor to produce the disease as we know it. This factor may be some form of irradiation, some chemical poison, some derangement of bodily function (a so-called metabolic disorder), or a disturbance in the body's hormonal balance.

Various treatments have been used to attack the disease from every angle. Blood transfusions

may give temporary relief. When there is enlargement of the liver or spleen, X-ray treatments may halt the disease for a while.

Many drugs have been tried. Nitrogen mustard is one of the best because it attacks the tumor cells vigorously; however, it has a narrow margin of safety. That is, the dose must be controlled with extreme caution as the drug is also highly poisonous to the normal cells. Undesirable side reactions are common.

Two drugs that are closely related to nitrogen mustard have been developed recently and they are said to be much better tolerated than the older drug. They have been given the serial numbers U-7224 and U-3344.

They are still considered experimental but if they prove sufficiently effective they will be given names by the manufacturer.

Another laboratory has found that a drug extracted from the common periwinkle and called leurocristine is capable of causing remissions in persons with leukemia and other malignant tumors.

Much toil and patience is required in any work on new drugs, especially those for use against chronic diseases. Support for such work comes from many sources including the federal government through research grants, university medical schools, large drug concerns and private charitable organizations such as the Leukemia Society, 405 Lexington Avenue, New York, N.Y.

Too often these societies find their support only from families who have lost a beloved member from this disease. Their work would be greatly facilitated if every person would say to himself, "I hope it doesn't happen to me—but it very well could!"



MODOC SUPERVISORS — The Modoc County supervisors recently met and reelected John Laxague as chairman of the board. He has served for eight years representing Surprise Valley. Members for 1963 are, seated from left, William McCaw, Alturas; Iris Turner, secretary; John Laxague, chairman, Cedarville; Brunell Christiansen, Likely; Standing, James Sterns, Tulelake; and Everett Caldwell, Canby.

Supervisors Asked To Act On Winnemucca Road

ALTURAS — A. F. Van Horn, Modoc County Chamber of Commerce manager, appeared before the Modoc County supervisors at their first meeting of 1963 to urge action in completing the portions of the Winnemucca to the Sea Highway not paved in Modoc County. Van Horn also pointed out to the supervisors that the Lassen County portion of Highway 295, between Reno and Alturas, is "badly in need of repair and maintenance."

Van Horn emphasized, "travelers won't use a highway in this condition. If quick action isn't taken, highway traffic will be depleted until the economy of Modoc County is affected." He also reported that this portion of Highway 295, controlled by Lassen County, is on record as the most deficient federal highway in Northern California.

The supervisors expressed agreement with Van Horn and approved a resolution to the state of California requesting the sign designation of Highway 295 to extend to the Nevada line. They also requested funds to pave the 9.3 miles east of Cedarville to the Nevada line, and extension of Tulelake were sworn in to new terms of office on the board. The new chairman has served eight years on the board of supervisors representing Surprise Valley.

In other business, the board stated it will request a rehearing by the State Industrial Accident Commission on its recent claim against Modoc County in the case involving the death of Benton W. Brown. The Industrial Commission recently declared the county as the responsible employer in this case, dismissing the state of California and the subcontractors on the highway construction project on Highway 295 where Brown was killed. The claim against the county is for \$17,000.

The Associated Gas Company received the bid for gas and diesel oil delivery for the county with a low bid.

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Jobless Pay Checks Change Style

SALEM—On the eve of the 25th anniversary of the first Oregon unemployment insurance claims filed and benefits paid, David H. Cameron, Oregon Department of Employment commissioner, has announced the adoption of a new format for the unemployment insurance benefit check. The newly devised check will be used beginning immediately, the commissioner said.

The new benefit check will be headed "State of Oregon—Department of Employment," emphasizing the Department of Employment which was created and began administering the unemployment insurance fund in 1939. The fund was originally administered by the former Unemployment Compensation Commission. First claims for unemployment compensation were filed in early January, 1938, and first benefits were paid Jan. 25, 1938.

At the present time the Oregon unemployment insurance trust fund contains some \$55.4 million. In 1958 the maximum benefit check was \$15 per week; in 1963, the maximum is \$40. Average benefit check is now around \$35.

Since the payment of benefits started in 1938, the insurance program has paid unemployed persons in Oregon more than \$390 million for a total of more than 16 million benefit payments, greatly bolstering the economy of the state.

Lease Land Bids Asked

Sixty two tracts of public land in the Frog Pond lease area in the Tule Lake Sump are being offered for leasing for agricultural and grazing purposes. Sealed bids from the general public for the leasing of these lands will be received at the office of the Bureau of Reclamation in Klamath Falls until 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. Jan. 29.

These tracts of public lands will be leased for the 1963 farming season with the option to extend the lease for four additional years. Twenty five per cent of each lease unit may be planted to row crops.

Information on bidding procedure and leasing conditions may be obtained from the bureau's office at the corner of Washburn Way and Joe Wright Road, or from bulletins posted at all post offices in the Klamath Basin vicinity.

WAC Recruiter Visits Klamath

Sgt. Arleen Patt, Women's Army Corps recruiter from Portland, will be at the Army Recruiting Station, 417 Main Street, Jan. 16 and 17 to interview interested young women for the WAC.

There are many job opportunities open to young women who can meet the enlistment requirements. "Mental, moral, height and weight requirements are rigidly adhered to and anyone qualifying can feel justly proud of being a member of the corps," the recruiter said.

For further information call or write SFC. M. W. Buesch, local U.S. Army recruiter, 417 Main, telephone TU4-8401.

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JERRY R. SUETTER **ROBERT KELLISON**

ARMED FORCES NEWS

Jerry Suetter, RDSN, USN, son of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Suetter, 1521 Avalon Street, is serving on the USS Lynde McCormick, a guided missile destroyer deployed in the Far East.

Suetter attended KUHS before enlisting in the Navy. He was a member of the varsity wrestling team at school. Suetter's ship will return from the Far East in June after visiting Japan, the Philippines, Hong Kong and other ports.

Donald R. Rush, torpedoman's mate second class, USN, son of Mr. and Mrs. Lou Kellison, Route 3, Box 278A, is stationed at Lincoln Air Force Base, Neb. Kellison graduated from KUHS in 1954 and has been in the Air Force four years. He is presently working in the field of electronics at the air base.

Douglas R. Olsen, USN, son of Mr. and Mrs. Louis E. Olson, 3125 Summers Lane, and William D. Taylor, son of Mr. and Mrs.

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