

defenseless, to certain death have been brought back to health, and new opportunities for a more active life have been opened to countless others. In no small measure because of the successes of medical research, two decades have been added to human life in this century.

Infections like pneumonia, syphilis, and many others have lost their terror. Smallpox, diphtheria, and probably whooping cough have been effectively brought to bay. Sanitation and pasteurization have all but eliminated typhoid fever. Rickets, once a serious threat to human health, has all but disappeared. Through improved preventive measures and surgical techniques, and through the use of streptomycin and newer drugs, significant progress is being made in bringing tuberculosis under control.

Often, a whole new era in the history of medicine is heralded by some brilliant discovery, such as Pasteur's discovery of the germ causation of disease, or the introduction of antiseptics by Lister, or the development of anesthesia by Long and Morton. Radioactive isotopes provide an exciting new investigation technique for the research worker, and now, thanks in no small measure to the efforts of Canadian scientists like Collip, Long, Selyé, Heard, and Browne, the imagination of health investigators is being captured by the new concept of the body's behaviour emerging from studies of ACTH, Cortisone and their related hormones.

Research Seeks New Worlds To Conquer

From time to time it is the way of human nature to complain that there are no more worlds to conquer. But in all humility, how can we know what unimagined realms lie just beyond our reach? And inside each miniature atomic universe -- which is the smallest imaginable particle of our world -- how little do we know about the pattern of its restless energy?

We smile at the complacency of those who in the 19th and preceding centuries looked back with so much smug contempt on the limitations of science before their own day. Let us, too, remember that in another time than this the same tolerant amusement may be the tribute paid to our level of knowledge -- impressive though it seems to us today.

Who knows what research discoveries lie ready to our hand? Who knows how few more segments of medical science might complete our understanding of the laws governing the human body, and answer questions that since the dawn of time mankind has asked despairingly.

Medical discovery, like the accumulation of knowledge of any sort, is a gradual process of adding fact to fact until in time there is a vast complete pyramid -- a monument to the man who sets the capstone, whose name will live forever, but also to each individual who toiled up the long inclines as one of the nameless work-groups who made their contribution to the mass of knowledge that was building.

Over the past half-century, Canada has made tremendous progress in health research. We rightly honour the great leaders whose names we know. But this progress