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Solving the Cancer Mystery

FACTS ABOUT NEW DISCOVERIES.

(By David Masters)

A year ago the newspapers were full of the theory that faulty feeding was responsible for cancer. The theory was plausible enough, but to me it was unconvincing.

The human body is built up of countless tiny cells. When you cut your finger, new cells begin to grow about the injury until they fill in the gash and complete the repair of your finger by forming a new strip of skin over the new tissue. The cells cease to grow immediately the repair is complete.

Bad Tooth Perils.

The tragedy with cancer is that the body cells keep on growing until eventually they kill their victim. Cancer, however, is not likely to form in a clean cut, but it is often found on the site of injuries that are due to continual irritation. For instance, the sharp edge of a decayed tooth may rub against a careless person's lip or cheek for many years, injuring the delicate cells with every movement of the mouth and continually preventing the cells from repairing the damage. At last the cells rebel and a cancer forms on the spot.

For years men have been trying to find out why the cells should behave in this strange manner—why the cell of life should change into the cell of death. All sorts of things have been blamed for it. Some men even went so far as to blame coal fires, but the evidence that a germ was necessary to cause cancer became so strong that I wrote my simple book, "New Cancer Facts." Since its publication a few weeks ago I have received striking confirmation of the germ theory from other quarters, and Dr. Gye and Mr. Barnard have now practically placed the matter beyond doubt.

The Filter Test.

Fourteen years ago Dr. Rous, of the Rockefeller Institute, tested over thirty kinds of growth found in chickens in his attempts to solve the mystery of cancer. He found three growths that gave him hope. By pressing the juices from these growths and injecting them into other chickens he was able to set up new growths. The great thing was that the three growths possessed different characters, and the juices from each set up growths that were true to the type from which they originated.

Dr. Rous filtered the juices through a porcelain filter used by scientists for filtering out germs. He injected his filtered juices and found that he could still cause the growths.

Years ago this would have been regarded as proof that a germ was not responsible for cancer. But we know now that there are germs so small that they actually slip between the molecules of clay of which the filter is made, and Dr. Rous felt certain that the germ that caused the growths was one of the exceedingly minute organisms known as filter passers.

Tracking the Germ.

Dr. Gye and Mr. Barnard have not only confirmed the work of Dr. Rous. They have carried it a step farther. Taking the growths of Rous, Dr. Gye has performed a large number of experiments. He made his first series of experiments by taking a piece of the growth and mincing it as small as possible with sharp scissors. As the germs were locked up in the cells, it was necessary to release them, and this was done by placing the mince with some germ-free sand and saline into a mortar and pounding the mixture together.

The grinding of the sand against the cells smashed them up, and the scientist was left with a mixture of sand and crushed cells and invisible germs in saline, or salt water. When this mixture was filtered the fluid set up growths that killed chickens in a month.

Dr. Rous found that when the fluid from a growth was treated with chloroform, it was impossible to set up new growth, and he assumed that chloroform killed the germs. Dr. Gye proved this for himself and carried out experiments which also proved that there was something else in the fluid which came from the cells—something in addition to the germ.

He found that this something, which he has named the "specific factor," could not itself set up a growth, while the germ alone was equally incapable of setting up a growth. It was necessary in the first place for the "specific factor" to destroy the natural defences of the cells before the germ could enter the cells and set up a cancer.

Mr. Barnard managed to photograph the invisible germ by using invisible rays of light—another triumph of modern science. Now the two men propose to try to find a way of protecting people by vaccination, so that the cancer germ will never be able to harm them. But it may be years before this boon is granted to humanity.

Monkeys Assist Science.

It is but justice that the work of the pioneers should not be forgotten. I have already indicated the important part played in the recent work by Dr. Rous. In 1921 Dr. James Young, of Edinburgh, isolated a germ from cancer cells. He found that his germ might grow into several different forms, and the scientific world combined to pour scorn on the man who dared suggest such a thing.

The latest evidence indicates that the germ found by Dr. Gye and photographed by Mr. Barnard may prove to be one of the forms found by Dr. Young. I think it not unlikely that when the present excitement has died down, further researches may show that Dr. Gye's brilliant work has confirmed Young's earlier discovery.

With his germ Dr. Young was only able to set up three or four cancers. But even if his germ were the true cancer germ, he would not be able to set up cancer with it alone, and in my book I suggested a series of experiments with an irritation factor and his germ which would prove whether he was right.

What I called the irritation factor and Dr. Gye terms the "specific factor" act in the same way, and Dr. Gye has already shown that my suggested experiments would have cleared up any doubt that existed in regard to Dr. Young's germ.

There is one other investigator, Dr. Glover, of New York, whose work has met with strong opposition. Some years ago he found in cancer cells a similar germ to that found by Dr. Young. With his germ, found in human cancer cases, he was able to set up cancers in monkeys, tests which indicate that the germ would also set up cancer in man.

Dr. Glover vaccinated animals by injecting three doses of his cancer toxin, and afterwards injected into some unvaccinated animals a dose of toxin which killed them in one or two days. The vaccinated animals were injected at the same time with one and a half times the same amount of toxin, and all survived.

How Horses Will Help

He has actually made a cancer anti-toxin with which he claims to have cured cancers in human beings, so it is safe to say that in the future we shall be able to cure cancer as well as prevent it.

The cure for cancer will be made by injecting into a horse the toxins or poisons given off by the cancer germs. The first injection will be a dose much too small to hurt the horse, but large enough to start the creation of anti-toxins in its blood. Stronger and stronger doses of the toxins will be injected until the horse's blood is full of anti-toxin.

The serum containing the anti-toxin will be drawn off without injuring the animal, and injected into human beings suffering from cancer. With every injection some of the cancer poisons will be neutralized and gradually the cancer will be cured.

It is impossible to say when such treatment will be available, but Dr. Gloves has shown that a serum which imparts to the body the magic power of overcoming cancer will be one of important methods of fighting the disease in the future.

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SIDE TALKS.

By Ruth Cameron.

WANTED JUST ENOUGH SPICE.

Betty and Anne were chatting on the doorstep.

"Walter's such a goop," said Betty when Walter was mentioned in connection with some school festivity.

"What's the matter with him?" demanded Anne. "He's harmless. I haven't any objection to Walter."

"Neither have I," Betty replied. "That's just the trouble. There's nothing to object to."

Anne looked mystified, but I could sympathize with Betty. I, too, have felt as she does about some folks I have known.

Gentleness, mildness, sweetness, humility, diffidence, charity, self-abnegation, all are excellent virtues; and suppose I'll be horribly misunderstood and misquoted if I say anything that will appear to detract from their becomingness.

More Stimulating.

But I do think that a certain degree of belligerence of self-assertion, of agression is much more stimulating in a friendship than is an utter absence of these traits, however much it may make for placid concord.

I number among my friends a middle aged couple who are exceptionally congenial and yet they disagree almost vehemently on many subjects. I heard the husband in a rare outburst of admiration (he is not a demonstrative man) say of his wife: "She's the most entertaining woman I know. I'd rather have a good tilt with her over some matter of public interest that we don't agree on than go to a vaudeville show. She defends her view point with so much animation and expresses herself so piquantly. I've lived with her nearly 20 years and far from getting bored I find her more companionable now than she ever was."

And People Took Advantage Of Him.

"Father was an awfully good man," a woman said to me once. "He was one of the pillars of the church, he seldom lost his temper, he never swore and had no bad habits. He was always so sacrificing, never thinking of himself and so little aggressive that people took advantage of his good nature. I used to tell him the one thing he needed were a few redeeming vices and during his last years he really began to feel that he could do with a few himself. He made the boys earn part of their tuition at college and with the money thus released he used to go on fishing trips up in Maine, a sport he'd always loved and never felt that he could afford to indulge himself in. and I was really glad that he'd developed a little selfishness, as he called it. It's a strain to be so awfully good."

In Characters And Puddings.

I have always made it a practise to answer every letter that I receive from my Reader Friends. But I warn you now, that if anyone is moved to remonstrate with me on the error of my ways in pointing out the beauties of a "few redeeming vices," I shall not take up the challenge. I'm not trying to "start something" in any peaceful family. I am only remarking that a little spice is as appetizing in a character as in a pudding.

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U.S. Airmen on Moorish Front

OVERSEAS FLYERS MENTIONED FOR FIRST TIME IN OFFICIAL COMMUNIQUE.

Fez, French Morocco, Sept. 1.—The United States flyers who have enlisted against the Moors were mentioned in the official communique for the first time yesterday. It was announced that, having completed their training, they had made several flights on the front in the Benj Seroual country.

The situation on the whole is calm, but growing activity on the part of the enemy all along the line leaves no doubt that Abd el Krim is resolved to resist the French offensive to the utmost. The activity takes the form of numerous raids and skirmishes, notably south of Kelaa des Sless and Kokleine, which were repelled with much trouble.

Air scouts report from all points convoys of munitions hurrying to the front. Energetic attacks delivered by the Spaniards on the Melilla front are reported to have had the effect of obliging Abd el Krim to withdraw large numbers of fighting men from the recently former special detachment to defend points threatened by the Spanish.

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A Staunch Adherent

TORONTO, (C.P.)—The non-conforming Presbyterians will benefit by the will of the late Sarah McCallum, who left an estate valued at $113,713. The money goes to the church at Aurora, Ont.

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