

Because of diagnostic aids for earlier detection of cancer, major advances in surgery, improvements in X-ray devices, the wider use of radium and the development of Cobalt 60 Units, thousands of cancer victims are still alive today who would have had little hope of recovery a few short years ago.

### The Development of Cobalt 60 Beam Therapy

A notable milestone in Canada's cancer programme was the development by Canadian Government scientists of the Cobalt 60 Beam Therapy Unit. This apparatus, which provides a new and potent weapon to combat cancer, has received world-wide recognition and places Canada among the leaders in the fight against cancer. At the present time the demand for these units, both here and abroad, is greater than can be met by the Crown Company -- Atomic Energy of Canada Limited -- which is still the world's only producer of this equipment.

It is now just two years since the first cancer patient was treated with Cobalt 60 radiation at London's Victoria Hospital, where the first installation of this equipment was made. While Government physicists were working on the development of the Cobalt 60 apparatus, similar equipment was built independently in Saskatchewan by Dr. Johns of Saskatoon. Shortly after, Government-built units were installed in Vancouver and Winnipeg.

The present Toronto installation brings to five the total number of units now in operation across Canada. Canadian-built equipment has also been purchased for hospitals in the United States at New York, Chicago and Minneapolis; for the Mount Vernon Hospital in London, England; and for a centre in Italy.

Plans are now being worked out in co-operation with the provincial governments and professional authorities in the cancer field for the orderly development of an extended programme that will cover the entire country. It is our hope that Cobalt 60 Units will eventually be in operation in every province and particularly at university centres where trained physicists and medical consultants are continually available for advice and necessary supervision over the complex operation of this important new type of equipment.

At the present time, Atomic Energy of Canada is building a new and more powerful reactor which will increase substantially the supply of cobalt available for this purpose. In consequence, it is expected that beginning in December of next year, it will be possible to step up production to two new units each month.

In the Province of Ontario, as I have already noted, there are at present two Cobalt 60 Units -- at London and here in Toronto at this clinic which is being opened today. I understand that ultimately the new Ontario Cancer Institute to be built in this city will include two units, along with other modern electric and therapeutic equipment.

As for this Institute, while the Federal Government has not yet received a formal request for assistance, on the basis of preliminary information concerning the size