

SAFE FOR RADIUM SET IN HOSPITAL

First Step Taken to Equip Philadelphia General for Treating Cancer

SCREENS OF LEAD ARE USED

Work on what is planned to be the best-equipped radium treatment plant in the United States was started at the Philadelphia General Hospital yesterday. The first move was the installation of a specially constructed lead-lined safe which will house the precious metal. In addition great sheets of lead two and a half inches thick are being formed into screens to protect the experts who will handle the metal to be used in the treatment of cancer and similar diseases.

Scientific apparatus by which the radium emanations will be drawn from the safe and deposited in minute silver tubes for use in treating sufferers will be included. Every precaution is being taken to insure the experts who will handle the radium against burns that possibly might result in the loss of life. Director Furbush, who is supervising the erection of the radium plant, yesterday received a telegram from Washington saying that the first radium had arrived there and was to be tested for purity and weight. Another gram will complete the shipment. The radium is valued at approximately \$150,000.

"While it is possible that we could get the first gram of radium from Washington within a week, we do not want to receive it until we have the apparatus completely set up," said Dr. Furbush. "There is a vast amount of work to be done in preparing for the safe custody of this precious element. It must not only be guarded against theft or loss, but also special guards must be set up to prevent serious injury to persons coming anywhere near it for the rays of radium have a highly destructive effect upon human tissue and it is a fact that a burglar who had the temerity to steal Philadelphia's radium if he could get by our safeguards might pay for his crime with his life."

Radium Strongly Guarded
"There is considerable misapprehension as to what we are going to do with the radium at the Philadelphia General Hospital. In the first place, it will be put in a safe with a double-combination lock. The safe will be in a room with a specially locked door and an outer steel door, and the whole arrangement will require the presence of three men holding three different secret combinations before the radium can be reached directly. But it is unlikely that the safe containing the radium will be opened often than about once a year, when observation will be made of its condition and activity."

"A thin tube, encased in an extraordinarily thick lead pipe, will lead upward from the top of the safe, and this lead-encased tube will bend and twist backward and forward through various apparatus. With this installation a most curious thing will happen, for a vacuum pump will be used to literally draw off the radium rays or emanations filling the safe. They will be conducted through the lead-encased tube and purified by various scientific attachments and finally conducted into a long glass tube so finely drawn that it is almost invisible.

"There will be nothing invisible about it in the darkened room when the radium emanations are pumped into it, however, for they give off a glaucous green light somewhat like that of the X-ray, with which many persons are familiar.

"The tube containing them will be hardly any thicker than a needle. When a sufficient supply of the emanations are stored in this thin tube it will be removed from the supply pipe and a plug will be inserted in its open end. Then it will be put through a glass-cutting machine which will automatically heat the tube, close it and cut it off into quarter-inch lengths. Each of these lengths will contain a tiny store of radium emanations which will be active for a long time and which are

the curative force that we will use on patients.

"The glass fragments are put into silver shells or cases and are ready for insertion in wounds or on the surface of patients' bodies. The action of the rays in cancer is to destroy the dead tissue.

Lead Rooms for Treatment

"At the present time we have about sixty patients suffering from cancer at the city's hospital. Special rooms are being fitted up in which the treatment with the radium emanations will be given.

"I have not yet begun the work of selecting the force of scientists who will have the radium work in their charge. Council passed an ordinance last week providing for the five full-time posts which we will require. They are a physicist, at \$3000; a roentgenologist, at \$2500; an assistant physician, at \$2000; and a technician and laboratory glassblower with highly technical skill, each at \$1200.

"The special lead protectors which we are installing in the radium room are among the most unusual features for lead is the best metal resistant to the radium rays, and a veritable armor plate at least two and a half inches thick will be set up in every place where the workers will be exposed to the destroying light. It will be set around several desks which are being installed for the attendants, and the metal will be everywhere in the room as a protective medium.

"It sounds curious to talk about lead eyeglasses, but that is practically what the workers will use. The glasses will be made of special lead glass manufactured for the purpose of resisting the rays."

GLAD THEY WON WHEELS

Two More Successful Contestants Thank Public Ledger

"My brother and I were out riding yesterday, and we had the time of our lives," Catherine Williams, 428 East Wilder street, wrote in acknowledging the receipt of her Black Beauty bicycle, won by obtaining thirty-five subscriptions to the Evening, Morning and Sunday Pumps to Letters.

"I want all my friends to know how much I appreciate their help in winning my Black Beauty," Edward Pratt, Jr., of Audubon, N. J., wrote.

14,000 Officers Enough, Borah Says

Washington, Aug. 16.—Recent announcement of an examination this month for 1000 commissioned army officers was criticized yesterday by Senator Borah, Idaho, who told the Senate that 14,000 officers for an army of 150,000 were ample. Unless the Military Committee suggests cancellation of the examination, he would introduce a resolution to that end, Senator Borah said.

TO CONSIDER COST OF MEMORIAL HALL

Matter Will Be Taken Up Soon at Conference of Veterans and Officials

VOTERS TO PASS ON PLANS

A meeting is to be held shortly to consider the question of the referendum at the November election as to whether or not Philadelphia shall build a hall in honor of the veterans of the World War. The County Commissioners, who are planning the conference, intend to invite Councilmen, city officials and representatives of soldier organizations.

The most important question is just what form the memorial shall take and the amount of money to be expended. Before submitting the question to the electorate, the County Commissioners desire to be in a position to say how much money will be expended if the voters approve the project. Similar referendums will be taken in every county in the State under the terms of the legislative act authorizing the construction of memorial halls throughout the Commonwealth.

Commissioner Holmes said the question of how the project shall be financed must be considered. The law provides that the County Commissioners may levy a tax up to two mills to raise the funds. Such a tax here would yield more than \$4,000,000.

As Council is the tax-levying body here it is possible that the project will be financed by the floating of a ten-year loan, the money to be derived from

the taxes of each year, in preference to the assessing of increased taxes in the coming year. An appropriation of \$1,500,000 is now available for the construction of a convention hall on the Parkway near Nineteenth street, and Mr. Holmes said that he would confer with William Conner, attorney for the commissioners, to determine whether the two projects should be consolidated and the existing appropriation utilized.

"It is not our thought that there shall be any extravagance in construction, but at the same time we feel that nothing is too good to do honor to our soldier boys," said Commissioner Holmes. "We intend to have the veteran organizations approve our plans beforehand. The soldiers' representatives want something both useful and decorative, and a combination memorial hall and convention hall has been suggested. We want to have the affair in definite shape by the time the voters decide the question, and we do not want to levy any heavy burden on the taxpayers. We shall get together as soon as possible to thrash out all the questions now surrounding the affair."

WOMAN A PRESS DELEGATE
Mrs. Deming Appointed Delegate to International Congress

Warren, O., Aug. 16.—(By A. P.)—An American woman has been chosen to discuss the place of women in journalism at the World's Press Congress at Honolulu next October. She is Mrs. Zell Hart Deming, manager of the Warren Tribune for twenty years.

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