

## More Dollars Can Advance Fight Against Nation's Worst Diseases

By ROY O. GILBERT, M.D.  
Los Angeles County Health Officer

The medical world's heartening progress in developing a polio vaccine points up a very important fact in regard to medical research and its relation to the average American's life expectancy.

The fact is that high intelligence, patience, and the complex scientific skills which are essential in the work of medical research must, without adequate and sometimes large amounts of money, plod along in the slowest sort of way.

Large as the amounts required for medical research may be, however, they loom less forbiddingly when we compare the sum spent for research in the field of heart diseases with the much larger amounts spent, for example, on both ballpoint pens and lipstick.

### More Money Needed

It has become increasingly clear that successful attacks against the nation's major crippling and killing diseases can have their time tables appreciably advanced by devoting more dollars to research toward that end. Diseases of the heart, which show no partiality between the high and the low, provide a case in point.

More than one in every two deaths this year will undoubtedly be due to one of the cardiovascular diseases. In 1953, according to the National Office of Vital Statistics, 813,110 Americans died of these ailments. That was out of a total of 1,518,600 deaths.

In the same year, a total of about \$16,007,109 was available for research in the diseases related to the heart and circulation. This included funds allocated by the Federal Government to the National Heart Institute and the Veterans Administration, and approximately \$3,783,175 provided through the American Heart Association.

tion, the Life Insurance Medical Research Fund, and the Helen Hay Whitney Foundation.

### Millions For Lipsticks

Yet, during the same period, according to the U. S. Department of Commerce, Americans spent \$555,000,000 on taxicab fares and tips, \$1,500,000 on jewelry and watches, \$65,630,000 on ballpoint pens, and \$40,040,000 on lipstick. All this, against only 16 million dollars spent on research directed against the nation's number one killer.

The question is sometimes raised as to whether basic medical research pays off in saved lives. Without considering other antibiotics and the sulfa drugs, the research discovery of penicillin alone provides a striking answer. It was first distributed to hospitals in 1945, and generally throughout the United States in March, 1946.

Since then, according to a 10 per cent sample study of death certificates released by the United States Public Health Service, the mortality rates from various diseases responding to penicillin therapy have shown the following remarkable declines: acute rheumatic fever, 70 per cent; pneumonia and influenza, 43 per cent; appendicitis, 70 per cent; syphilis, 60 per cent. Deaths due to many other infections, including the post-operative, also have been sharply cut through the use of penicillin.

### Production Increased

There is, in addition, a dollar value to the country when the product of medical research puts off the day of a man's death and permits him to continue living as a productive citizen. The National Health Education Committee estimates on the basis of Federal Reserve Bulletins that in the single year 1953, as the result of a 15-year decline in the nation's death rate, a total of 1.2 billion dol-

lars in federal and local taxes was paid by persons who still survived because of therapeutic progress resulting from medical research.

It is an interesting fact that agricultural departments eradicated bovine tuberculosis from the nation's herds years ago, but that the human tuberculosis problem still remains with us. In the field of medical research in agriculture the use of antibiotics in feed has increased both the quality and quantity of livestock production. Indeed, about four times as much money was spent on agricultural research in 1954 as was spent by Americans to protect themselves from the heart ailments which will, if present rates prevail, kill at least 54 per cent of us.

### Actions Lag

Perhaps through a peculiarity of human nature, actions

tend to lag behind knowledge of facts and even of convictions. During 1953, Americans donated \$19,802,980 to the American Cancer Society. Yet, only a year later, a pool conducted by the American Institute of Public Opinion at Princeton indicated 79 per cent of the people felt that at least \$100,000,000 should be spent annually on cancer research.

Truism or no, the facts remain. If progress is to continue in the direction of lengthening the average life expectancy, it is essential that medical research continue its progress toward ultimate victory over diseases of the heart and other major cripples and killers, and this should not be left to chance alone.

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November 1, 1955



SEEK QUEEN TITLE . . . Two Harbor City beauties, Chloe Campbell, 26232 President Ave., and Gail Travers, 1700 W. 265th St., will be among the candidates for Homecoming Queen at Harbor Junior College. Final selection will be made Nov. 11.



CONGRATULATIONS . . . Art Instructor Donald C. Green congratulates Mrs. Betty Ingram, an El Camino College art student, on her oil painting which won second prize at the State Fair in Sacramento. Mrs. Ingram had no art experience prior to her enrollment at El Camino. Her painting was titled, "The Old House."

## 444 Veterans Enrolled at Harbor Tech

Four hundred and forty-four veterans of Korea and World War II are currently enrolled at Harbor Junior College. Robert V. Bacon, Veterans' Counselor at Harbor Tech, said yesterday.

Six veterans are attending under public law 346 (World War II vets), four are attending under public law 894 (Korean disabled vets), and one under California Veteran's program. Four hundred and thirty three veterans, including three women, are attending under public law 550 (Korean veterans).

Veterans enrolled in day

### Take Clothes From Line

Mrs. Lena Sanders, of 4009 W. 184th St., told police Wednesday, that someone had stolen clothes from her clothes line during the night.

classes number 232, with 212 enrolled in the extended day program. There are 72 veterans enrolled in the Police Science courses offered at the College. Six of the veterans in attendance are from the Hawaiian Islands.

Included among the Korean veterans are John Tachihara, student body president, and Joe Ortega, director of men's athletics.

These enrollment figures are both day-and night classes. Attendance is divided nearly equally between academic, technical, and business courses, Bacon said.

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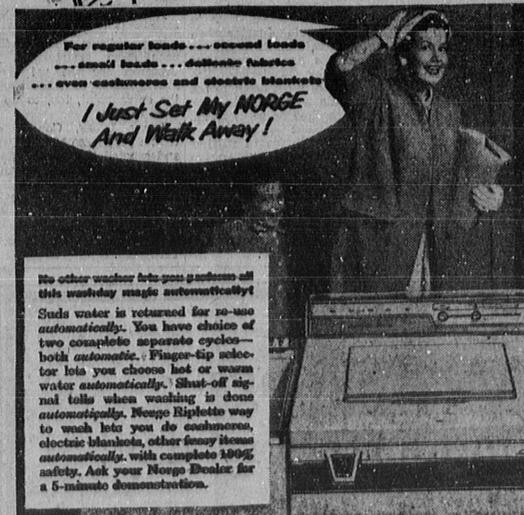
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