

ATOMIC World's CURES Diffused

By G. B. Lal

Science Editor, *The American Weekly*

IN simple medicinal form, atomic energy is on the way to saving more lives than, in the form of bombs, it destroyed at Nagasaki and Hiroshima.

From the uranium stockpile at Oak Ridge, Tenn., radioactive iodine today is being produced in constantly increasing quantity and flown to every part of the nation to meet the demand for treatment of persons suffering from Graves disease, or toxic goiter.

The treatment is used only for "diffuse" goiter, in which the hormone producing tissues of the thyroid gland swell up and become overactive throughout the gland, not for "nodular" goiter in which definite tumors grow in the gland. The nodular disease is treated by surgical removal of the tumorous tissues.

It gives good results in a very high percentage of cases—as high as 90 per cent at some clinics.

These cases are, in layman's language, "out-and-out cures;" medically speaking, "remissions."

The medical profession, always wary of the phrase "permanent cure," prefers to refer to them as "very satisfactory."

Symptoms of goiter have vanished in the great number of cases receiving radioactive iodine treatment.

And though the medical profession is constantly on the alert for any later harmful results, keeping apparent cures under observation for years, no harmful results have yet been noted in any case.

In other words, from all the evidence so far established, a properly given small dose of radioactive iodine will very likely dispose of a diffuse goiter and, if it fails to do so, will cause the patient no harm.

The *American Weekly* first told in 1946 of the successful use of radioactive iodine in the treatment of goiter and urged that the government's uranium stockpile be made available to medical science for the benefit of mankind.

Very shortly afterward the government acted accordingly.

Up to that time radioactive iodine had been produced in cyclotrons, an extremely expensive process. That it was made at the University of California more than 10 years ago in the cyclotron built under an endowment by the estate

February 22, 1941

ENERGY Greatest Killer Toxic GOITER

the late Mrs. Phoebe Apperson Hearst, mother of William Randolph Hearst. Prof. Ernest O. Lawrence produced the medicine.

Soon afterward it was produced at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, with a cyclotron under the direction of famed physicist Dr. Robley R. Evans. The cyclotron showed how the atomic pile could serve medicine.

Today's process at Oak Ridge is faster and considerably less expensive, yet the production is hardly sufficient to meet the increasing demand as the treatment becomes more and more widely accepted with mounting indication of apparently complete cure, comparable to best deep X-ray therapy.

Checking back on its own trail, *The American Weekly* recently contacted Mrs. Anna D. Dane, of Watertown, Mass., whose own story of goiter cure by radioactive iodine was published in the issue of June 2, 1946.

"I'm in the best of health—completely cured," was her recent report, attested by her husband, Henry Dane, a Boston merchant.

Mrs. Dane, like most others who undergo the treatment, drank only one small dose of the nearly tasteless radioactive iodine in order to regain her health after she and her family had despaired of her life.

Another check with some of the nation's foremost physicians and clinicians shows that in some 200 cases the radioactive iodine treatment has been successful in between 80 and 90 per cent of all cases and that no harmful results have been noted when the treatment was properly done by experts.

Dr. Sidney Charles Werner, professor of Medicine at the Columbia College of Physicians and Surgeons, and the Presbyterian Hospital in New York; and Dr. Earle M. Chapman, of the Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston, have treated more than 150 cases. At a recent convention of radiologists in Boston their successful results were estimated at nine out of every ten patients.

Other enthusiastic pioneers in this field are Dr. Mayo Hamilton Soley, professor of Medicine at the University of California Medical College in San Francisco; Dr. S. M. Seidlin of the Medical Physics Research Laboratory of Montefiore Hospital, New York; Dr. L. D. Marinelli of the Memorial

THE AMERICAN WEEKLY



The Atomic Drink—Colorless, Odorless, Tasteless, Like the Purest of Water—Is Science's Newest Disease Killer. The Dose, Usually Small, Invariably Is Diluted With Water.

Hospital, New York; Dr. J. H. Means of Harvard University Medical School and Massachusetts General Hospital; and Dr. Saul Hertz of the Beth Israel Hospital, Boston, who with Dr. A. Roberts and Dr. Evans, M.I.T. physicist, prepared an extensive report of successful case histories as far back as 1942.

One of the most recent and most authoritative reports indicating medical science has finally found a simple, harmless remedy for diffuse toxic goiter is made by Prof. Robert S. Stone, physician-radiologist working with Dr. Earl Miller at Uni-

versity of California Medical College. He said:

"Radioactive iodine therapy for Graves disease has given very good and successful results in some 90 per cent of cases. The latest method is to give smaller doses more frequently. This prevents too much reduction in thyroid activity."

In New York, Dr. Irving Somach, noted clinician working with radiologists, declared:

"This is the treatment of choice—perfect for diffuse toxic goiter. It is safe even though it is experimental."

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