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CONGRESS AND CANCER.

The atomic bomb achieved something far more destructive than the death of 75,000 human beings in Hiroshima and Nagasaki. It destroyed human defeatism with respect to certain evil diseases which take such a ghastly toll every year and also sharpened mankind's determination to find the remedy for such diseases, especially cancer. It stimulated research and the determination of men skilled in science and medicine to find the answer to these medical riddles. Even as the power concealed in a tiny atom seemed so remote from victory over Japan only a few short years ago, so attention is being directed to remote, untried and new approaches to the problem. It has produced an interesting sense of proportion on the part of the average citizen. He is not overwhelmed by the proposition contained in the Pepper-Neely Bill to spend \$100,000,000 on cancer because he remembers that one battleship costs that amount and that the development of a bomb to kill instead of heal cost 20 times that much. It accounts for the fact that 87 out of every 100 people queried by the Gallup Poll favor this Bill.

DRAMA IN THE HEARING ROOM.

Several weeks ago, hearings were in progress on this Bill before a Senate subcommittee. Senator Pepper of Florida, co-author of the Bill was presiding. There had been a constant procession of doctors, laymen, scientists, facts, figures, history, suggestions, opinions. There had been a discussion of cancer treatments over the years such as radium, x-ray, electro-surgery. Now came a man with a new approach to the problem. Perhaps it would be more accurate to say that there came a man with a deeper conviction than had been heretofore entertained that the greatest hope for a remedy for cancer lay in a new approach, namely diet. His name is Dr. Max Gerson. He is a refugee doctor who now lives in New York. He came originally from Weimar, Germany where one of the shocking prison camps was located. He had much to do with developing dehydrated food for the German Army. Years ago, while suffering from migraine headaches, he sought a remedy for this painful affliction and came upon an effective diet-remedy for skin tuberculosis which is known as the Sauer-bruch-Gerson diet. And now by the strange force of destiny, he was in Washington D.C. before a Senate subcommittee in behalf of a Bill to stimulate the search for a cancer remedy. His approach was to consider the body as an amazing chemical laboratory which was not functioning properly and therefore made it possible for cancer, tumors, and malignant growths to exist. His hope was that the chemistry of the body could be changed by diet. His belief was that it could be changed by foods that were close to nature, a diet low in salt, fats, animal proteins and high in carbohydrates supplemented by liver extract and certain mineral salts and vitamins. He relied not so much on testimony in trying to direct more attention to the dietary field as a possible approach to the problem as he did on certain very humble witnesses.

THE LIVING EXHIBITS.

(1) A 17-year old girl took the stand to testify before the committee. She was the victim of a brain tumor on which no operation could be performed and which resulted in paralysis. But now she walked to the witness stand without aid to tell briefly of her case. (2) Here was a former sergeant in the United States Army. Once he was as burly and robust as the very term sergeant implies. He too became the victim of a brain tumor. There had been an operation. But the x-ray could not be used to supplement the operation because of danger to the brain. He was kept on a prescribed diet and could now attend the hearing and testify. (3) Now came a woman who had suffered from a cancer of the breast. She too had been treated by diet and was now in the nation's capital to give a Senate sub-committee an account of her progress toward recovery. Here were living witnesses to testify from bitter and painful experience that there was hope. Here were witnesses to stimulate determination. Here were people - humble people - victims of cancer, to stir the imagination and to sharpen the conviction that if a fractured atom could annihilate Nagasaki, surely somewhere in Nature was a force to conquer cancer. We must and we shall find it.