human bones from among human ones. This occurred when the untrained soldiers who did the actual disinterring of hasty battlefield burials came upon the bones of dead farm animals. To the layman all bones look alike, but an anthropologist knows which are human.

In one case an anthropologist was able to prevent what would have amounted to actual grave-robbery. A number of bodies of American fliers, killed when their planes crashed during a flight over Vienna, were buried in a Viennese cemetery. Their graves were properly marked and recorded, but the digging squad who exhumed their remains proved too zealous, and brought up also the bones of earlier burials at a deeper level. When the anthropologist protested that some of the bones were female, the soldiers did not want to believe him. However, the production of scraps of women's clothing settled the matter.

Sometimes the scientists have been able to show that a lot of mixed bones represent two persons instead of one. Two skulls would indicate that to anyone, but the layman might not notice duplicate left collarbones or two shoulderblades or shinbones that don't match.

Dentists' records, said Dr. Shapiro, are often exceedingly helpful, sometimes leading to a positive identification.

Science News Letter, April 24, 1948

GENERAL SCIENCE

Divorces Declined Faster Than Marriages Last Year

➤ THERE were fewer marriages and fewer divorces last year compared with 1946, with divorces decreasing twice as rapidly as marriages, figures released by the National Office of Vital Statistics of the U. S. Public Health Service revealed.

Marriages dropped off one-eighth, while divorces fell more than one-fourth in 1947 contrasted with 1946. There were nearly 14 marriages per 1,000 population in the United States last year, with a little more than three divorces for each 1,000 persons.

Meanwhile, statisticians of the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company in New York have reported that wartime marriages led to a post-war boom in divorce rates.

More marriages were broken up by divorce in the five years, 1941-46, than ended in divorce in 14 years of married life before the war, it was calculated.

Science News Letter, April 24, 1948

MEDICINE

Cancer Secrets in Color

➤ COLOR photographs built from the absorption of invisible ultraviolet light are the latest hope of cancer fighters that they will have a speedier, surer way of telling the cancer cell's composition in contrast with the healthy cell.

Behind this important technical development, announced at the opening of the new Sloan-Kettering Institute for Cancer Research in New York, is the courage and determination of a Naval officer who kept fighting even when told he would eventually die of a kind of cancer, leukemia.

He is Capt. Robert Conrad, U.S.N., Ret. He was a leader in naval research during the war, and he is now assistant director of planning at Brookhaven National Atomic Laboratory.

When doctors at Memorial Hospital Center, of which Sloan-Kettering is the research branch, told Capt. Conrad he had leukemia, he said:

"I want to do something to help the fight against cancer before I die."

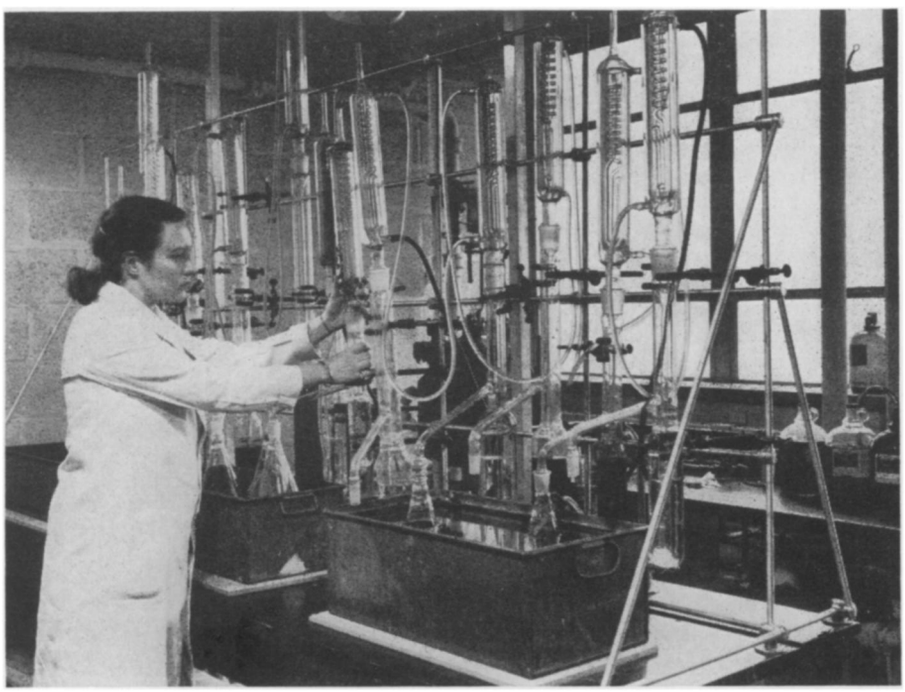
Dr. C. P. Rhoads, director of Memorial and Sloan-Kettering, suggested that Capt. Conrad use his wartime experience with Naval Research and industrial concerns. So Capt. Conrad went around the country, interesting industrial laboratories in cancer research.

The first concern to start work on the cancer war was the Polaroid Corporation. Under a contract with the Office of Naval Research and with Dr. Edwin H. Land, Polaroid's president, himself guiding the research, this firm has put its new techniques of color photography to work on the cancer problem.

Cancer cells, like all living cells, are transparent and colorless in ordinary light. The same cells, however, have characteristics corresponding to color when illuminated in ultraviolet light. Since ultraviolet light is itself invisible, special methods had to be used to record the ultraviolet color characteristics of living cells. To accomplish this, the color translation principle suggested by the Russian scientist, Brumberg, was followed.

Pictures of living cells were taken in three wave lengths of invisible ultraviolet light where the cells have their color. These were translated photographically into colors visible to the eye.

Science News Letter, April 24, 1948



EXTRACTION OF HORMONES—One of the processes in the complex study of steroid hormones, part of the cancer-fighting program at Sloan-Kettering Institute, is their continuous extraction from the urine of diseased and normal persons.

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