

Using powerful, precise radiation from a linear accelerator or a large cobalt machine he is able to deliver tumor-killing doses of radiation deep into the body with little or no harm to the skin. Unfortunately, a lack of properly trained radiotherapists limits this treatment to a few large medical centers.

Advances in chemotherapy have also added to the success of the Hodgkin's disease treatments. Formerly a single drug was used to destroy a tumor. The drug did the job but often it was not complete, and the tumor would return. Dr. Vincent T. DeVita Jr., head of the solid tumor branch of the National Cancer Institute, has found a way of getting around this limitation. Using a combination of four anticancer drugs, he has had an 81 percent disappearance of tumors in 43 patients treated. Seventy-seven percent of the patients who responded were still alive after five years, and half of them were completely free of the disease.

The skillful coordination of these recent advances, the panel reported, has produced results that indicate the fight against this particular form of cancer is moving in the right direction. □

UNEMPLOYED ENGINEERS

Jobless funds for 14 cities

Each successful assault and subsequent cut in spending for defense, space and other heavy industry projects has displaced thousands of engineers and scientists. The count of jobless is currently 75,000 to 100,000, and it is expected to increase. The result has been a flurry of bills and programs from Congress and the Administration.

Last week the Labor Department announced details of President Nixon's own plan, called the Technology Mobilization and Reemployment Program. The program allocates \$42 million (or about \$420 per jobless individual). Of this amount, \$25 million would be used to retrain some 10,000 persons in job areas where there is a strong prospect for employment; \$10 million for relocation grants to persons who find jobs and have to move; \$5 million in grants for 20,000 persons to explore job opportunities outside of their home areas, and \$2 million for research on conversion studies.

The money will be divided among the 14 areas that have been hardest hit: Atlanta, Boston, Cape Kennedy, Dallas, Huntsville (Ala.), Los Angeles, Nassau County (N.Y.), Orange County (Calif.), Philadelphia, San Diego, San Jose, Seattle, St. Louis and Wichita. The services will be administered on a first-come first-serve basis: Registration at the state employment agencies in the areas will begin April 19. A Labor Department announcement de-

fining the eligibility requirements for the money was expected this week.

In addition to a House bill sponsored by Rep. John W. Davis (D-Ga.) and Rep. Robert N. Giaimo (D-Conn.) that would provide \$450 million for research into the problem of converting defense and aerospace workers to other activities (SN: 2/20/71, p. 128), three bills have been introduced in the Senate. Sen. Edward M. Kennedy (D-Mass.) introduced in January a bill providing \$500 million over a three-year period for retraining of the unemployed. The money would be used by the National Science Foundation to establish community conversion corporations. Last month he introduced another bill that would authorize low interest, long-term conversion loans in amounts up to 60 percent of the unemployed's former salary or \$12,000 a year.

Sen. George S. McGovern's bill would establish a National Commission on Peacetime Transition to protect workers in defense and space industries and encourage new enterprises in both the private and public sectors. According to a McGovern aide, the bill would require that military, space and Atomic Energy Commission contractors deposit in reserve 12.5 percent of their profits from Government contracts (before taxes). This money would be used by the new commission to pay benefits to workers whose work weeks have been shortened due to spending cuts or whose jobs have been eliminated or downgraded.

Recently released preliminary results of a questionnaire sent by the Battelle Memorial Institute to aerospace workers laid off from 1968 to 1970 show that of 2,000 respondents only 31 percent have found permanent jobs; 32 percent have found temporary jobs, and 32 percent are still unemployed. Five percent have left the working force.

On the average, the respondent was out of work for 31 weeks. Of those who found permanent jobs, only 18 percent returned to the aerospace industry. Of those who found jobs outside the aerospace industry, only 12 percent said that their new jobs were highly related to their skills and 50 percent said their new jobs were not at all related to their aerospace experience. Thirty-one percent of those finding jobs outside the industry said they would not return to an aerospace job. Only 16 percent said they would.

In addition to the human and economic problems of unemployment, the massive shifts constitute an irretrievable national loss, says Dr. George M. Low, Acting Administrator for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration. "We are losing much of [our] aerospace capability. . . ."

THE DRUG SCENE

Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Cocaine

The worst bummer of all time was recorded by Robert Louis Stevenson. It seems that the good Dr. Jekyll tripped out on a mysterious powder and ended up as the nefarious Mr. Hyde. This was a strange case indeed, because it is possible that the author, R.L.S., may have been on a pretty heavy trip himself.

Saul Bellow, one of America's leading fiction writers, states that, "You may find illumination anywhere," and in the past, various literary geniuses have taken inspiration from psychoactive drugs. Coleridge, Poe and Baudelaire, in particular, did some of their most creative writing while under the influence of the poppy. Now, speculates Dr. Myron G. Schultz in the April 5 JOURNAL of the AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION, there is a possibility that R.L.S. may have written "The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde" with the help of a hallucinogen—cocaine.

Cocaine is the active alkaloid of coca. It was used by the Incas to attain beatitude, and was given to the Peruvians by the Spanish in exchange for their labor.

The drug itself was first isolated in 1859 and came to prominence for its therapeutic qualities in 1884. Medical papers of the day touted it as a "miracle drug" for the cure of gonorrhea, morning sickness, seasickness, hay fever, opium addiction, sore nipples, whooping cough, asthma, syphilis and the common head cold. The September 1885 LANCET noted this.

Stevenson, who had suffered from "catarrhal consumption" since early childhood, was living in Bournemouth, England, at this time. His physician, Thomas Bodley Scott, was unsuccessfully treating the respiratory condition with morphine. It is quite possible that Scott may have followed the recent suggestion of LANCET and given his patient cocaine.

This would account, Schultz contends, for the demoniacal, pace at which the bedridden Stevenson wrote and then completely rewrote the novel (60,000 words in six days), and for the novel's imaginative preoccupation with good and evil. Cocaine does give the user an unusual capacity for work, and has the mind-altering ability to "develop everything that is degrading and ignoble in human nature."

Dr. Schultz's speculations cannot be verified, but if they are true, we can now number Stevenson among the spaced-out literary figures of the past and the psychedelic lyricists of the present. We can only speculate what R.L.S. would have done on LSD. □