

CANCER FOES BEGIN NATION-WIDE DRIVE

300,000 Sought for Women's Field Army to Urge Early Treatment of Malady.

150,000 VICTIMS A YEAR

Many Are Dying Needlessly, Says Leader of Control Society —Doctors Ready to Aid.

In the belief that more than 40 per cent of the 150,000 who die from cancer every year could be saved if proper treatment were given in time, men and women interested in combating cancer opened a national drive here yesterday to organize a Women's Field Army for "a war to save human life." It is expected that at least 300,000 in every part of the country eventually will become active members.

The drive is sponsored by the American Society for the Control of Cancer, which will put all its resources, including a campaign fund probably exceeding \$100,000, behind it, it was announced at a meeting at the Town Hall Club. The meeting brought together for the first time State commanders of the anti-cancer army from Eastern States. They were:

Mrs. William H. Beacom of Wilmington, Del.; Mrs. William Holt of Portland, Me.; Mrs. Harry W. Smith of Durham, N. H.; Miss Harriet W. Mayer of Mount Vernon, N. Y.; Mrs. Gustav Ketterer of Germantown, Pa.; Mrs. James B. Carmark of Providence, R. I.; Mrs. John S. Harvey of Huntington, W. Va.

Units in Thirty States

The Women's Field Army already has organized units in thirty States and has enrolled about 1,000 women of prominence for leadership, it was announced. Civic, fraternal and social groups will be asked to cooperate in the campaign, which will seek to spread the message that "cancer can be cured if treated promptly."

Dr. C. C. Little, managing director of the Society for the Control of Cancer, told those at the meeting that the present drive is the first national campaign of the kind in this country. He asserted that in the past the society has concentrated its efforts in persuading medical societies to devote more time and energy to cancer.

"But now doctors tell us that they are ready to treat cancer and to save many lives needlessly lost if we can only get the patients to them in time," Dr. Little emphasized. "The tragedy of cancer is that too many people fail to understand the symptoms until too late. We can save many lives, probably upward of 40 per cent of those who now die from cancer each year, if we can educate laymen to visit their doctors at the first indication of cancer.

"The present campaign is a particular challenge to women, since women are more susceptible than men to this dreaded malady."

500,000 Patients in Country

Dr. Little said there are about 500,000 cancer cases in the country. He estimated at \$900,000,000 each year the cost of cancer to the families of the patients. During 1935 cancer was the principal cause of death among women between the ages of 35 and 55 in this State, he declared.

Mrs. Grace Morrison Poole, national adviser of the Women's Field Army and former president of the General Federation of Women's Clubs, said that the army hopes to organize in 2,000 of the 3,000 counties in the country within the next six months.

"Instead of killing each other in war, as some of the nations abroad seem bent on doing, let us organize to rid humanity of one of its most dreaded diseases," she said. "Instead of fighting against humanity, we can war for humanity by enlisting in the cancer drive."

The drive will continue until March 27. The period from March 21 to March 27 will be devoted wholly to the enlistment of women volunteers in the army. The army will then go on a permanent basis, conducting an educational campaign against cancer the year around.

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