

One of these, who had extreme difficulty in walking and whose arms and hands were virtually useless, is now actively playing soccer.

*In another use of L-Dopa, several youngsters with the crippling disease dystonia muscularum deformans have been treated at Brookhaven and at Children's Hospital in Washington, D. C. One of the two treated at Brookhaven has returned home and is currently attending a regular school with normal children. Previously this child had been disqualified even from a school for crippled children.*

Let us look at another spin-off innovation of great value to medicine today.

One of the adjunctive problems in treating certain forms of cancer and in controlling rejection of organ transplants is the need for sterile surroundings to reduce chances of secondary infection. That brings me to a dramatic example of how nuclear technology has benefited medicine in unexpected ways. It is a story which, by the way, is set here in Albuquerque.

Sandia Laboratory needed an exceptionally clean room for assembly of nuclear weapons components and systems. Willis J. Whitfield, a Sandia physicist, designed and led engineering development of a revolutionary type of clean room, called the laminar-air-flow room, in which a continuous, uniform flow of filtered air from ceiling to floor or wall to wall gently but inescapably sweeps bacteria and particulates down to the floor and out of the room.

With Dr. John G. Whitcomb of Bataan Memorial Hospital here in Albuquerque and the late Dr. W. R. Lovelace II, Whitfield helped adapt his design to medical use, and the first laminar-air-flow operating room was put into use at Bataan Memorial Hospital on Jan. 6, 1966. In just over three years the use of laminar-air-flow rooms was so widely adopted that Willis Whitfield tells us he can no longer keep track of it.

Laminar-air-flow rooms are being used to protect patients undergoing chemotherapy for leukemia and to provide germ-free conditions for long and serious operations where the risk of infection is high. Dr. Whitcomb also has used portable laminar-air-flow equipment with great success in treating burn patients. We understand that the military is experimenting with portable equipment to isolate patients with highly infectious diseases. The AEC has installed a laminar-air-flow operating room in the Oak Ridge Hospital, looking forward to the day