

Jamaican herb may help cure cancer

by JULIAN JINGLES

FOUR OF JAMAICA'S LEADING MEDICAL MEN, Dr. Sam Street, Chief Medical Officer in the Ministry of Health; Dr. G. H. Sidrak, Lecturer in the Department of Botany, U.W.I.; Dr. M. E. West, Lecturer in the Department of Pharmacology, U.W.I. and Dr. Vernon Spence, Radiotherapist at

the Kingston Public Hospital (who has recently been brought in) have been engaged in important research work on the "Anti-growth Properties of a Jamaican Plant Extract". A paper was read on this at the last Caribbean Cancer Congress held here in November 1968.

The work which was start-

ed two years ago has been done at "top secret" level so as to avoid drug firms and foreign research workers learning the name of the plant involved and thereby capitalise on the methods used.

Dr. West recently returned from a three month Fellowship, and he has described his findings as "very encouraging."

"There is great promise in the field of Anti-Tumour Re-

search and we will certainly be continuing our work in this area," he reports.

It is further understood that the plant which features in this work is a well known ship at the Sloan-Kettering Institute for Cancer Research New York, made possible through the joint effort of the Ministry of Health and Pan-American Health Organization (Regional Committee of the World Health Organization). The Fellowship was awarded for him to continue work in the field of Anti-Growth P.O. Jamaican herb, and it is hoped that the name will be released to the public as soon as stud-

ies have been completed. This will be expected to culminate in one of the most important medical finds in the Western Hemisphere.

While at the Sloan-Kettering Institute, Dr. West also confirmed anti-tumour properties of Hypoglycyn isolated from the akee.

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