



ARTIFICIAL RESPIRATION when promptly applied has saved many from death by drowning

Bringing the "Dead" to Life

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According to a statement by the head physician of the hospital just published there. The patients suffered from thrombosis, a condition whereby blood clots are formed in the blood vessels. The thrombi, or clots, had entered the heart, stopping up the artery of the lungs so that the blood could not be emptied from the left half of the heart. The young physician, Dr. Blarence Crafoord, assisted by Dr. J. P. Stroembaeck, at once decided to attempt operations, quickly made incisions in the heart, removed the thrombi, thus restoring the circulation and brought the patients back to life.

Both patients recovered and now seem to be out of danger. This operation was first made by a German surgeon, Dr. Trendelenburg, and only two or three successful cases are so far recorded in the history of medicine. It requires a minute observation of the patient by the physician who must undertake the operation at what might be called "the moment of death," and the surgeon has a very short space of time, only about fifteen minutes, at his disposal if he is to have a chance of success. The head physician of the hospital, Dr. K. H. Giertz, is preparing to lay these remarkable cases before his colleagues at a meeting of the society of Stockholm physicians.

It is a remarkable thing that the simplest means that man has devised

to push back the hand of death when it reaches out to snatch at the living, are as effective in their different fields of application as those of the most delicate technique. A boy who rescues his comrade from drowning by the resuscitation methods he has learned in a boy scout camp has achieved as great success as the skilled surgeon who coaxes a refractory heart to beat again, that of saving a human life.

The method that has probably brought back into existence the greatest number of victims of drowning, electric shock and asphyxiation is artificial respiration, a procedure that has been practiced in one form or another for over a hundred and fifty years.

By this is meant the artificial expansion and contraction of the lungs by the hands, carried on until enough life-bearing oxygen from the air can be forced into the lungs and so into contact with the blood, to keep things going until the inert body picks up again of its own accord the natural, regular rhythm of the respiratory process.

Two hours has in the past been considered the limit for which this time-honored method for salvaging for human life will work. In a new set of regulations, however, governing the administration of artificial respiration by the prone pressure method that will soon go into effect not only in the army and navy but also in every factory and mine in the land,

where there is great industrial hazard, this period has been considerably prolonged.

Dr. L. R. Thompson, chief of the section of industrial hygiene and sanitation at the U. S. Public Health Service, under whose direction the regulations have been compiled, urges that everybody administering this form of first aid keep it up for at least four hours, because there are cases where men have actually recovered who have been "out" this length of time.

New regulations for restoring life have come about as the result of a recent conference of representatives from the U. S. Army, the U. S. Navy, the U. S. Bureau of Standards, the U. S. Bureau of Mines, the American Telephone and Telegraph Company, the American Gas Association,

(Just turn the page)

PSYCHOLOGY

Cause of Stammering Traced

When a little boy says, "I-I-I-I can't f-f-find my book," his badly jointed speech is the result of a sudden abnormal rush of blood to his brain, according to Samuel D. Robbins, director of the Boston Stammerer's Institute.

Back of the brain condition is a still more fundamental psychological cause, he stated in reporting the results of the investigation. Such emotions and states of mind as embarrassment, over-anxiety, over-eagerness, timidity, self-consciousness, tension, and fear of stammering all send surplus blood to the brain and aggravate stammering.

"To overcome stammering, the individual's entire emotional life must be reorganized," he said.

"Once stammering has commenced never call a young child's attention to the fact that his speech is abnormal. Always speak slowly and calmly in a low pitched voice when the stammerer is within hearing. If a child repeats a letter or word or unduly prolongs a consonant, do not ask him to repeat the word or show that you have noticed his difficulty. Answer his question in as nearly as possible the same words he used, beginning with the first word on which he stammered and prolonging its first vowel two seconds.

"In a month or two the child should unconsciously adopt this rhythm of speech and suddenly stop stammering. If he adopts the prolonged first syllable it will unconsciously shorten down to normal."

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