

SURGERY

New Operation Promises Conquest of Angina Pectoris

College of Surgeons Hears That Knife Can Cure Stomach Ulcers; Smoking Causes Increased Cancer

ANGINA PECTORIS, excruciatingly painful type of heart ailment which strikes down men and women in the very prime of life, may some day be conquered by the surgeon's knife.

An operation which gives hope of saving many lives threatened by this disease was demonstrated before the American College of Surgeons meeting in New York City.

The operation consists of giving the heart itself a new supply of blood. The trouble in angina pectoris is that the arteries which carry blood to the heart muscle, to enable it to pump blood to the rest of the body, become blocked.

An operation to remedy this condition has already been successfully used on human patients by Dr. Claude Beck of Cleveland. A simpler way of doing the job was demonstrated by Dr. Samuel A. Thompson of New York, at the Flower Fifth Avenue Hospital.

Dr. Thompson has not yet used the new operation on human patients, but dogs on which he performed it were well and active even if all the arteries which normally nourish the heart were blocked or tied off. Without the operation, half of the animals in this condition invariably died.

The new blood supply comes from the sac which surrounds the heart. In the operation, this tissue is made to adhere to the heart muscle, so that its blood vessels grow into the heart, carrying their blood with them. Dr. Beck has given the heart a new blood supply by the more difficult operation of attaching a piece of chest muscle.

The operation sounds like a cure for angina pectoris, but surgeons at the meeting cautioned that it is still in the trial stage.

Stomach Ulcers Cured

PATIENTS suffering from stomach or digestive tract ulcer can be permanently cured and recurrence of ulcers prevented if the surgeon cuts out two-thirds to three-fourths of the stomach, Prof. Hans Finsterer of Vienna

told members of the American College of Surgeons.

He reported 88 out of 96 patients permanently cured by this extensive operation. He finds it much safer to do the operation under local anesthetic instead of under ether or other general anesthetic.

They Get Along

Most patients get along quite well with the remaining small stomach. In a few cases anemia develops but this can be controlled by feeding liver or giving liver extracts. The complaints because of the small stomach are minor, Prof. Finsterer pointed out, compared to the dangers of a gastrojejunal ulcer.

When ulcers come back in a patient after operation, it is not because of "an unusual disposition to develop ulcers which cannot be controlled surgically," Prof. Finsterer declared. He claims recurrence of ulcers is due to failure of the surgeon to remove enough of the stomach in the first place. He described patients who had had from three to six operations without permanent cure until two-thirds of the stomach was removed.

Object of removing this large section of the stomach is to insure the lower part of the digestive tract being completely free of acid, Prof. Finsterer explained.

A short-circuiting operation, in which a new opening is made from the stomach to the lower portion of the digestive tract, is not advised by Prof. Finsterer. He says it should be done "only in rare, exceptional instances." His point is that while this short-circuiting operation reroutes food and stomach juices past the upper 10 inches of the intestines, thus protecting them from irritation, new ulcers are likely to form in the next section of intestine.

After cutting out two-thirds of the stomach, some fancy surgical needlework is required, it appeared from Prof. Finsterer's report, to attach the remaining third of the stomach to the rest of the digestive tract.



FOR GRECIAN BEAUTY
This delicate bronze mirror helped some Greek beauty of the sixth century B. C. to get her make-up on straight. Now acquired by the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York, it is pronounced almost perfectly preserved. The crusty green of the disk was originally golden bronze, and being slightly convex it diminished the image, so that the user might see not only her face but headdress and neck as well.

Smoking Causes Cancer

MORE persons are dying of cancer of the lung than ever before, probably because more persons are smoking and inhaling tobacco smoke than ever before. This startling statement was made by Drs. Alton Ochsner and Michael De Bakey of Tulane University School of Medicine, New Orleans, at a cancer symposium at the meeting.

"The inhaled smoke, constantly repeated over a long period of time, undoubtedly is a source of irritation" to the lining of the bronchial tubes, the New Orleans surgeons gave as their opinion.

Ten to fifteen out of every 100 primary cancers, not those that have spread from other cancers elsewhere, are lung cancers, they stated. Lung cancer is found in one or two out of every 100 persons examined after death.