

MEDICINE

Save Patients With Malignant Type of High Blood Pressure

Mortality Following Medical Treatment Alone Has Been 99% ; Operation Prolongs Life For Years

FOR the first time, apparently, patients with the type of high blood pressure known as malignant and hitherto considered hopeless have a chance of prolonged survival. That chance is a nerve-cutting operation which enabled one out of every three patients to survive five years or longer, Dr. Ward Wilson Woods and Dr. Max Minor Peet, of the University of Michigan Medical School, report (*Journal, American Medical Association*, Nov. 1).

The mortality of patients with the same kind of high blood pressure following medical treatment was 99%.

Symptoms are relieved in about 85% of patients operated on, leading the doctors to believe the operation is justifiable in certain cases, regardless of the likelihood of prolonged survival.

Not all patients with high blood pressure are suitable for operation. Among those that are, it offers a better chance than medical treatment when their ailment is a type in which blood pressure is high and there is spasmodic contraction of the tiny blood vessels in the eyes. When this eye condition is accompanied by hardening of the tiny arteries in the retina, the outlook following operation is less favorable.

In their detailed report of results in 76 out of 350 patients who have had the operation, the Michigan doctors suggest a new classification of high blood pressure patients according to conditions observed in their eyes which would be useful in determining whether patients will respond best to medical or surgical treatment.

Their results "lend credence to the theory," they state, that the operation relieves high blood pressure by relieving constriction of blood vessels in the kidneys. If this constriction is due to spasmodic contraction of the blood vessel walls, it probably can be reversed by cutting the nerves that cause such contraction. If, on the other hand, the constriction is due to hardening and thickening of the blood vessel walls, it is probably not reversible.

Science News Letter, November 8, 1941

ARCHAEOLOGY

Illinois Rivals Egypt In Pyramids and Ruins

EXPLORING Egypt's pyramids is "out" these days, but stay-at-home archaeologists who have been excavating American pyramids, report finding archaeological treasures as rich as those of Egypt.

Pyramids, stone slab coffins and palisade defenses which figured in prehistoric Indian life and death have been unearthed at the Kincaid mound site, says Dr. Fay-Cooper Cole, University of Chicago anthropologist, who has been directing summer digging there. For eight years the university has worked at a 500-acre area, probing its buried history.

The half-dozen larger mounds were pyramids built by Indians carrying the clay in baskets, with a view to raising high places for ceremonies, explains Dr. Cole. On the flat tops they built temples of wood and thatch.

"Many people think that they must go to Egypt for pyramids or to the Near East for ruined cities, but we have both within the borders of this state," he points out.

Evidence that the Indians of the regions were farmers has been found. They raised corn and beans, but also depended on hunting and fishing. Fearing invaders, they built a palisade with bastions around their community. Still sought is their main burial ground, but single graves which look like stone coffins have come to light. The bodies were laid in the stone boxes formed by the large stone slabs.

More than 100,000 Indian relics, including quantities of pottery, have been recovered from the site, and are being studied at the university's anthropology laboratory. There is hope of detecting the exact time when the mounds were in use, by fitting pieces of wood from the site into a tree-ring calendar such as has been used in dating Indian settlements of the Southwest.

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HYDROMATIC

This array represents a new development in aircraft controlled-pitch propellers. They will be manufactured by the Nash-Kelvinator Corporation in a former auto plant in Lansing, Mich.