



JEEP POWER—When the water power in a poverty-stricken Sicilian community failed, the people were desperate because their only means of crushing olives for oil was put out of commission. However, the ever-versatile American jeep proved a top-flight ambassador of good will; soldiers rigged it up to the crushing machine and with its power turned out 88,000 pounds of olive oil.

PUBLIC HEALTH

Danger for Heavy Smokers

➤ **HEAVY SMOKERS** are six times more likely to develop complications of the lungs following abdominal operations than non-smokers, reports Dr. H. J. V. Morton, Hillingdon County Hospital, Middlesex. (*Lancet*, March 18.)

In a study of 1,257 cases of abdominal operation, Dr. Morton grouped patients into three categories: 1. smokers (those who took more than 10 cigarettes or one-half ounce tobacco daily), 2. light smokers, and 3. non-smokers.

"Smoking seems definitely to increase the risk of complication causing constitutional disturbance," Dr. Morton contends.

Many smokers, it may be assumed, suffer from chronic inflammation of both trachea and bronchi, he points out. Under normal circumstances, the condition may be without symptoms and often overlooked.

After an abdominal operation, however, "restriction of efficient coughing brings about stagnation of bronchial secretion. The secretion accumulates and becomes infected and purulent and true bronchitis may follow. Where there is little or no post-operative inter-

ference with vital capacity or coughing, this succession of events is probably avoided at the outset."

Post-operative pulmonary complications are more common in men than in women and may be accounted for by man's greater dependence on diaphragmatic breathing, his normal respiration thus being more disturbed after an abdominal operation.

"A greater incidence of chronic infection of the respiratory tract in men associated with outdoor work in all weathers has been suggested," Dr. Morton says. "It has also been suggested that women have a higher immunity because of the hardening they undergo as the result of modern dress."

The striking difference obtained between post-operative lung complications for heavy smokers and light smokers among men as compared with similar figures for women may be attributed to the fact that many women coming into the "light smoker" group hardly smoked at all.

"Habitual pipe-smoking has far less significance than cigarette smoking," Dr. Morton observed.

"When abdominal operations are contemplated, it is advisable for smokers to stop or reduce their smoking as a precaution against pulmonary complications."

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ENGINEERING

Army Jeep Salvages Oil Crop in Sicily

➤ **THE ARMY JEEP** has added another page to its record of versatility by turning out 88,000 pounds of olive oil and salvaging a crop of olives for hundreds of families in western Sicily.

The water power needed to turn the huge stone wheels of an olive press on the Zucco estate outside Palermo had failed, and the tenants were faced with the probable loss of their food staple.

The press, on the second floor of the villa, could be reached only by means of a staired hallway. The jeep had climbed stairs before, but the hallway was too narrow.

The squad of engineers which Maj. Louis W. Correll of Spokane, Wash., called in to help simply turned the jeep on its side and carried it up the steps. As soon as it was in its proper place, they improvised a drive belt, made a few adjustments, the wheels rolled, and the olive crop was saved.

Science News Letter, April 29, 1944

PUBLIC HEALTH

Better Community Health Is Aim of Youths' Campaign

➤ **MONDAY, May 1**, boys and girls all over America will be meeting to plan their own campaigns for improving health conditions in their communities. This is a reversal of the Child Health Day activities that have been a part of the American scene since 1928, when Congress by a joint resolution authorized and requested the President of the United States to issue annually a proclamation setting apart May 1 as Child Health Day. In the past, grown-ups have been urged to make May 1 a day for renewing or starting fresh efforts to improve health conditions among children.

Now, however, with a war on, the grown-ups are all very busy and the boys and girls have shown themselves eager to take on as many adult responsibilities as possible. In line with these changed conditions, President Roosevelt in proclaiming Child Health Day this year has invited America's boys and girls