

MEDICINE

Injuries Affect Glands

Servicemen who have been burned or wounded may benefit from studies of the effects of injuries on body glands.

► BURNED and wounded servicemen may benefit from studies of the effects of burns on body glands reported at the meeting of the Association for the Study of Internal Secretions in Chicago.

The studies, under a contract between the Office of Scientific Research and Development and Wayne University College of Medicine, were conducted by Drs. Mary Beth Glendening, Helen A. Winter, H. H. Williams, W. E. Abbott, J. W. Hirshfeld and Carl G. Heller, of Wayne University, Detroit Receiving Hospital and the Research Laboratories of the Children's Fund of Michigan.

Important in rehabilitation of servicemen may prove the finding, if confirmed in additional patients, that sex gland function is disturbed in severe burns. Sex gland stimulating hormone was excreted in normal amounts during the first 20 days following the burn in the patients studied, but after this period increased amounts were excreted. Increased excretion of this hormone is an index of diminished male sex gland function, the scientists point out.

Changes observed in excretion of other hormones, indicating disturbed function of the adrenal glands, and of the body's handling of nitrogen from proteins, may lead to greater knowledge of the chemistry involved in repair of injured tissue. This may suggest new methods in treatment for burned and wounded servicemen.

Science News Letter, July 15, 1944

Why Fat Folks Eat

► FINDING out why fat people eat will throw more light on the cause of their fatness and how to cure it than all the present laboratory tests for gland disorders, Dr. Henry B. Richardson, of the New York Hospital and Cornell Medical College, told the meeting.

Contrary to the popular view, he said, not all people with endocrine gland disorders are fat and not all fat people have gland disorders. In the great majority of cases of obesity, no gland defect can be found and no consistent disturbances in basal metabolism, sugar tolerance or specific dynamic action have been observed.

Understanding of the fat person's motives for eating and being fat, not only the motives he gives but some of the symbolic meaning and psychological gain of the fatness, are important for curing the condition.

"The successful reduction of weight depends," Dr. Richardson said, "on the degree to which the psychological factors are understood by the patient or utilized in the treatment by the doctor."

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Quick Pregnancy Test

► A CHEMICAL test for pregnancy which can be completed in three hours and detects pregnancy at an earlier stage than the Friedman rabbit test was announced by Dr. Henry S. Guterman, of Michael Reese Hospital.

The test also appears to be more specific than the Friedman test, giving a negative reaction in conditions other than normal pregnancy in which the Friedman test may be positive.

The test is a qualitative color reaction

for the presence in the kidney excretion of pregnandiol. This chemical is a degradation product of a pregnancy hormone and is excreted for only a part of every month unless pregnancy occurs. In that case, it continues to be excreted in increasing amounts. Its absence or the amount present at a particular time thus can be used to tell whether or not the woman is pregnant.

Science News Letter, July 15, 1944

Aids Reproduction

► VITAMIN D, given to babies in fish liver oil, is ordinarily thought of only as a requirement for formation of strong bones and teeth in growing children, though scientists have long known that grown-ups also needed some of this sunshine vitamin. Now it appears that it may be important to grown-ups who want children. Studies showing that, in rats at least, the reproductive function is closely dependent on the amount of vitamin D obtained were reported by Dr. Curt P. Richter and Dr. Katherine K. Rice, of the Johns Hopkins Hospital, Baltimore.

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Some 7,000,000 miles of telegraph wire, it is estimated, are stretched in land areas in the world, one-third of it is in the United States; this is a development of just a century—the first telegraph message was sent May 24, 1844.



ROCKET PROJECTILES—Just launched from special gear located under the wings of this R.A.F. Beau-fighter, halfway between the radial engines and the wing tips, these rocket projectiles are now on their way to their targets. Each plane carries eight rockets, four under each wing. They are fired along guide rails, either in pairs, or as a whole salvo. The U. S. Navy Grumman Avenger is also equipped to use the rocket missiles.