



G. I. MULE—He is carrying a chain saw which will cut through a tree or hard wood log 12 inches thick in twelve seconds. Photographs by Fremont Davis, Science Service Staff photographer.

MEDICINE

Mid-Life Change in Men.

Condition relatively rare, can be treated satisfactorily with the appropriate sex hormone. Psychoneurotic conditions are not benefited by the treatment.

► A GLANDULAR change in mid-life, such as invariably occurs in women, does also occur in men and, as in women, can be treated satisfactorily with the appropriate sex hormone, Dr. Carl G. Heller, of Vancouver, Wash., and Dr. Gordon B. Myers, of Detroit, report (*Journal, American Medical Association*, Oct. 21).

The change, scientifically termed the climacteric, is relatively rare in men, however. It may occur as early as the third decade of life, but probably only a small proportion of men who live into old age are affected.

Sometimes the nervousness, psychic depression, inability to concentrate, hot flashes and other symptoms that characterize the climacteric in men are due not to glandular failure but to a psychoneurotic condition. Such cases are not benefited by sex hormone treatment. This fact gives physicians one way of distinguishing between the two conditions. The diagnosis may also be made

by laboratory tests.

The laboratory tests gave Dr. Heller and Dr. Myers objective evidence that 23 of 38 patients complaining of the physical and psychic symptoms of the climacteric owed their symptoms to sex gland failure. Disappearance of the symptoms following treatment with the male sex hormone confirmed the evidence of the laboratory tests.

The hormone is given by hypodermic injection three times a week, or by implantation of pellets of the hormone under the skin in the thighs. Such a hormone bank will be effective for six to 10 months. Doses of the hormone by mouth were not successful.

The hormone treatment is not advised for patients with cancer or any suspicion of cancer, for those having any dropsy, or for any patient showing normal sex gland function. In this connection the two doctors warn that "ill advised treatment with testosterone (male sex hormone) may cause permanent sterility."

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PUBLIC HEALTH

Unwarranted Fears Of Malaria Are Debunked

► SO MUCH has been said and written about the dangers of malaria to our troops fighting around the world and to civilians when the troops return that many persons may have developed unwarranted fears on the subject.

Malaria is and has been for some 2,500 years the "most serious disease in the world," students of this plague believe. It is held responsible for some 3,000,000 deaths among 300,000,000 victims a year. In the chronic form which develops in natives of highly malarious regions it has persistent incapacitating effects.

However, you need not worry about such effects in that serviceman of yours who has been exposed to or perhaps attacked by malaria.

"The fear that malaria, once acquired lasts for life, is unfounded," the Preventive Medicine Division of the Office of the Surgeon General, U. S. Army, points out in a statement on malaria.

Vivax malaria, which is the most common type, very rarely persists for more than one to two years, and three years is the maximum time, when the disease is properly treated, Lieut. Col. Francis R. Dieuaide, Medical Corps, Chief of the Tropical Disease Treatment Branch of the Medicine Division, said. There also is no evidence to support the fear that the disease leaves any permanent damage in its victims.

Named after the species of malaria parasite which causes the benign tertian form of the disease, vivax malaria rarely causes death. Its attacks of chills and fever occur every other day.

The malignant form of the disease is known as falciparum malaria. Atabrine, a synthetic substitute for quinine, has been found to be a cure for a high percentage of the cases of this form of malaria.

Discussing the Army's experience with vivax malaria, Col. Dieuaide said that "patients have usually had fever for only two or three days. Persistent incapacitating effects of chronic malaria, such as are often seen in natives of highly malarious regions, have rarely developed."

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The deepest hole in the world is a Texas oil well recently drilled to a depth of 15,279 feet, nearly three miles; it is 20 inches in diameter at the surface and tapers to less than eight inches at the bottom.