

MEDICINE

New Respiration Method

Combination of Schafer prone pressure method with a hip-lift or hip-roll method was tried out on 100 warm corpses and nine living men.

➤ A NEW method of giving artificial respiration to restore life, tried out on 109 warm corpses and on nine living men who voluntarily stopped breathing for the experiments, is announced in the JOURNAL OF THE AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION (Dec. 23).

The method was developed by Dr. A. C. Ivy and associates of the University of Illinois College of Medicine. It consists of a combination of the Schafer prone pressure method and a hip-lift or hip-roll method.

The "ventilating efficiency" of the prone pressure method, taught in American Red Cross and other first aid classes, can be doubled by adding the hip-lift maneuver, Dr. Ivy and associates found. By ventilating efficiency is meant the amount of air that gets into the lungs.

To use the new method, the operator lifts the victim's hips four inches 12 times a minute, alternating this with the push on the chest of the prone pressure method. Since lifting the hips is tiring, after the first crucial few minutes it may be done after every second or third push on the chest. The hip roll was developed as a less tiring, easier method of accomplishing the ventilation of the hip-lift maneuver. To do this, the victim is grasped at the distant hip and "rolled" onto the rescuer's knee and back again.

Dr. Ivy and associates compared the efficiency of eight methods of manual artificial respiration and the Eve rocking method in which the victim is rocked on a board like a child's see-saw. They found that the manual methods in which the victim lies prone or on his back and which use both a push

and a pull are more effective than those using only a pull or only a push, such as the Schafer method. The prone, or face down, method was found safer.

The study was assisted by a grant from the American Red Cross. Red Cross authorities in Washington stated that they will make trials of the new hip-roll prone pressure method in some of their classes, before deciding whether to adopt it officially. The method now taught ventilates the lungs as well as normal breathing does, Dr. Ivy's studies show. Consequently Red Cross authorities do not believe it wise to change the method yet, especially as the hip-roll procedure is harder and takes more strength.

Emphasized by Dr. Ivy and associates is the importance of the first few minutes in starting artificial respiration. Those working on the study with Dr. Ivy were: Drs. Archer S. Gordon, Frank Raymon, Max Sadove and David C. Fainer.

Science News Letter, December 30, 1950

MEDICINE

ACTH Helps Patients With Tendency to Bleeding

➤ ACTH and cortisone, famous for the relief they bring to arthritis-crippled joints, are helping patients with a tendency to excessive bruising and bleeding. The condition is known as idiopathic thrombocytopenic purpura. It is due to failure of the bone marrow to produce enough blood platelets.

"Remarkable results" in ACTH treat-

ment of three patients with this disease are announced by Dr. Muriel C. Meyers of the University of Michigan.

The patients not only improved but have remained well, with no relapses, for more than six months since the treatment was stopped.

ACTH failed to help two other patients with this disease, but they were then given cortisone and got good results from that drug.

Science News Letter, December 30, 1950

SCIENCE NEWS LETTER

VOL. 58 DECEMBER 30, 1950 No. 27

45,600 copies of this issue printed

The Weekly Summary of Current Science, published every Saturday by SCIENCE SERVICE, Inc., 1719 N. St., N. W., Washington 6, D. C., NORTH 2255. Edited by WATSON DAVIS.

Subscription rates: 1 yr., \$5.50; 2 yrs., \$10.00; 3 yrs., \$14.50; single copy, 15 cents, more than six months old, 25 cents. No charge for foreign postage.

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Printed in U. S. A. Entered as second class matter at the post office at Washington, D. C. under the act of March 3, 1879. Acceptance for mailing at the special rate of postage provided for by Sec. 34.40, P. L. and R., 1948 Edition, paragraph (d) (act of February 28, 1925; 39 U. S. Code 283), authorized February 28, 1950. Established in mimeographed form March 18, 1922. Title registered as trademark, U. S. and Canadian Patent Offices. Indexed in Readers' Guide to periodical literature, Abridged Guide, and the Engineering Index.

Member Audit Bureau of Circulation. Advertising Representatives: Howland and Howland, Inc., 393 7th Ave., N.Y.C., Pennsylvania 6-5566 and 360 N. Michigan Ave., Chicago. STAt 2-4822.

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MEDICINE

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