

MEDICINE

Heart Disease Prevention

Find way to spot men who are likely to have heart attacks. Blood chemical pattern gives clues to treatment that would prevent the attacks.

► DOCTORS NOW have a way to spot in advance the men who are likely to have a heart attack before they reach the age of 40.

And they have clues to treatment that might prevent it. The method of detecting men prone to heart disease was worked out in a three-year research project at the cardiac department of Massachusetts General Hospital and Harvard Medical School, Boston.

Details of it, with the hint of preventive treatment, are reported in the *JOURNAL OF THE AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION* (Oct. 13) by Drs. Menard M. Gertler, Stanley M. Garn and Paul D. White. Dr. Gertler is now head of the cardiac department at Francis Delafield Hospital, New York.

The study was confined to men because it was found that of 100 persons who had a heart attack under the age of 40, 97 were men and three were women. By comparing these 97 men with 146 presumably healthy men of the same age, body build, racial origin and occupation, the scientists found the points on which proneness to heart disease could be detected. They also

found six possible candidates for heart disease under the age of 40 among the 146 healthy men.

The detection points cover the person's personal and family history, body build, psychological make-up and blood chemistry. Heart disease in a parent, brother, or sister points toward heart disease in the man being examined. So does a history of certain diseases such as diabetes, gout and arthritis.

Body build in which measurements are broad rather than long, such as short, broad face, head, hands, nose and stature, is one of the characteristics of the man prone to have heart disease before he is 40.

The makeup of the blood, or chemotype, must also be studied. The amount of cholesterol, uric acid and lipid phosphorus will be higher in heart-disease prone men. Even more important for detecting incipient heart disease is the ratio of these chemicals to each other.

The blood chemical pattern gave the clues to potential preventive treatment now being studied. Increasing the amount of

lipid phosphorus is the most practical, the scientists state, for restoring to normal the ratio between this chemical and the cholesterol in the blood.

In addition, they are trying methods of making the walls of the blood vessels less permeable to cholesterol and its products.

Science News Letter, October 20, 1951

GENERAL SCIENCE

Women's R.O.T.C. Soon In Nation's Colleges

► A WOMEN'S R.O.T.C. may shortly be set up in the nation's colleges.

A new bill pending before the House Armed Services Committee would authorize participation by women in the R.O.T.C. program for the first time. At least one staff study has been made on the subject by the Army and it is believed that Army personnel officials are favorable to the idea. At least one college has sent in a plan for coordinating women into the R.O.T.C. program and several colleges have written the Defense Department about the idea.

The situation is about the same so far as the Air Force is concerned.

Recently WAC Commanding Officer Col. Mary A. Hallaren told a group of women in New York that the Army is planning to set up a women's R.O.T.C. as soon as the bill authorizing it is passed.

All this indicates a change in attitude on the part of the Armed Services. Several months ago, it is known, both the Army and Navy were opposed to the idea of a women's R. O. T. C., while the Air Force's attitude was described as "mixed."

Women would be integrated into training programs for the service arms such as Finance and Supply already under way in the colleges. Most R.O.T.C. programs are intended for training in the combat arms.

Science News Letter, October 20, 1951



LANDINGS BY TELEVISION—The U. S. Navy has disclosed that its new giant carrier, the *Forrestal* (CVB-59), will use a secret television system to help planes land on its flush deck. Planned to be bigger and better than anything afloat when completed in three years, the 59,000-ton ship will cruise at 30 knots. The huge flight deck will handle many types of planes, including those capable of carrying atomic bombs.

ASTRONOMY

Faint Comet Found During Sky Survey

► ANOTHER FAINT comet has just been discovered. It is located in the constellation Andromeda, now high in the evening sky. But this new, slow-moving object is of the 16th magnitude and thus would have to be about 10,000 times as bright to be seen with the naked eye.

Astronomer Robert G. Harrington of the California Institute of Technology and Mt. Wilson and Palomar Observatories spotted the faint object on a plate taken Oct. 3 as part of the sky survey being conducted by Palomar Observatory and the National Geographic Society. Last August he co-discovered a tenth magnitude comet in the constellation of Ophiuchus, the serpent holder.

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