

MEDICINE

Vitamins Help Keep Alcoholics On Wagon

► SOME OLD and some modern notions about health are evaluated and somewhat debunked in reports to the *Journal of the American Medical Association* (May 8).

Large daily doses of multiple vitamin preparations will help some alcoholics stay on the wagon but, on a group basis, results of diet supplement treatment of alcoholism are somewhat disappointing. The results, however, are favorable enough to warrant further research, Drs. Martha F. Trulson, Robert Fleming and Fredrick J. Stare of Harvard School of Public Health and Medical School and Peter Bent Brigham Hospital, Boston, reports.

Estrogenic hormone creams do not improve the appearance of a middle aged woman's skin any more than an ordinary softening or "night" cream does. Both kinds of creams did bring noticeable improvement in the appearance of the skin in women with dry skin at the start of the experiment. These findings were made by Dr. Howard T. Behrman, New York skin specialist, on 27 women who, every night for three months, used a hormone cream on one side of their faces and a plain emollient cream on the other.

The expectant mother does not have to eat for two, but she should have a well balanced diet with enough but not an excess of dietary essentials, Dr. Frank E. Whitacre of Nashville, Tenn., advises.

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PSYCHIATRY

Love Life Possible For Those Over 80

► A HAPPY love life is possible for old people and probably good for them, it appears from reports to the American Psychiatric Association meeting in St. Louis.

"People over 80 may fall in love and enjoy love relationships," Dr. David Cole Wilson of the University of Virginia Hospital, Charlottesville, declared.

"Indeed, a lack of sexual outlets causes a good deal of disturbance among old people, especially older women," he stated.

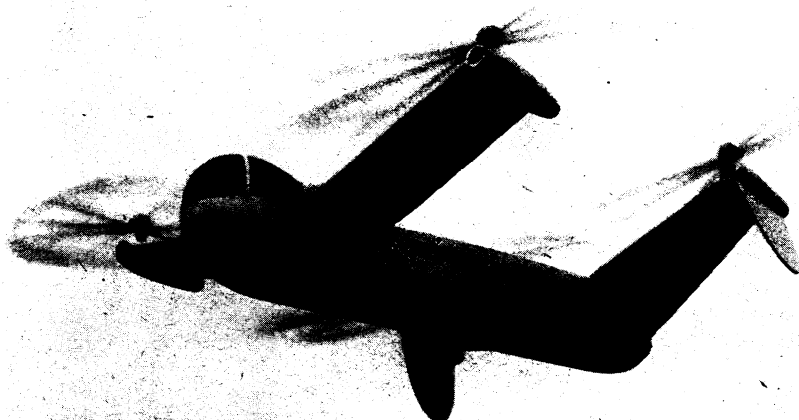
People may grow old but they do not necessarily have to become infirm, confused and show mental decay, he said, calling this "one of the most stimulating pieces of news arising from medical knowledge."

Most older people are prone to have accidents. This, Dr. Wilson believes, is because they lack interest in life. Men have motor accidents and women suffer from falls.

Older people become more understanding, less rigid and do not decay into senility when they keep active and continuously undertake something new, he finds.

Mental diseases, especially those primarily emotional, when they develop in the aged, Dr. Wilson said, seem to prolong their lives.

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70-PASSENGER MODEL—An artist's conception of the four-motored helicopter planned to carry 70 passengers. A two-place prototype, designed for increased stability and safety, is to be tested soon.

AERONAUTICS

Four-Rotor Helicopter

► A FOUR-ROTOR helicopter is close to solving two of the biggest headaches in helicopter design, inherent instability and small center of gravity travel.

The small high-speed rotors, situated like bedposts at the four corners of the aircraft, will cut down vibration and provide better handling qualities, David H. Kaplan, 30-year-old president of Convertawings, Inc., stated.

Just as the two-rotor helicopter increased stability of the familiar single-rotor craft and permitted larger cargoes, this helicopter is designed to increase lateral, as well as longitudinal, stability and to permit greater utility and safety.

"The use of four rotors for support in combination with multiple power plants makes possible a tremendous stride toward complete safety in flight," stated the design engineer. "A safe landing is feasible even in the event of structural failure of a rotor coupled with the ability of a four-engine machine to continue a vertical climb if one of the engines fails."

The thin short blades and hubs are new designs made with an eye to future mass production methods. Fewer moving parts are needed because many complicated control mechanisms so prevalent today are eliminated with the use of multiple rotors.

The blades, of solid 24 ST aluminum extruded like toothpaste, are only 3.75 inches wide. This permits the higher forward flight tip speeds sought by the helicopter industry.

The small two-place prototype now under construction is driven by two piston engines. A more powerful model that can carry up to 70 passengers is under development with four engines. Future turbine powered models with thrust augmentation will provide for growth of the design to meet increasing performance requirements.

First tests of the four-rotor helicopter are expected to be made this month at Zahns Airport, Amityville, L. I., where Convertawings, Inc., is located.

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TECHNOLOGY

Plaster of Paris Molds Cut Aluminum Parts Cost

► SMALL, INTRICATE aluminum parts now can be cast in plaster of paris molds to eliminate more costly machining methods.

A. B. Norton, general manager of the Aluminum Company of America's casting division, said that aluminum and magnesium parts formerly impossible to produce by casting methods now can be turned out faster, cheaper, and with such perfection as to require little or no subsequent machining.

Plaster of paris molds have long been used in the casting of aluminum. Until the recent improvements of the process were made, however, the method was often too costly for small intricate parts.

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