

SURGERY

Ulcers in Extra Stomach

► A RARE case of a young woman with two stomachs—and many ulcers in one of them—has been reported by Drs. Howard W. Owen, Colin B. Holman and James T. Priestley of the Mayo Foundation, Rochester, Minn.

The second, or duplicate, stomach was discovered in X-ray examinations made in search for possible ulcers or other causes of the attacks of pain and blood passing the patient suffered.

She had had such attacks once or twice a year since the age of four. At the age of 20, the attacks became more frequent. Examinations and tests, including X-rays and an operation to explore the abdomen surgically, did not show any abnormality.

Clue to the existence of the duplicate stomach came when the patient was being X-rayed again, this time at the Mayo Clinic. During this examination, the roentgenologist was disturbed to find some of the chalky barium mixture, given the patient to make the stomach outlines show on the X-rays, was apparently leaking from an opening just below the normal opening of the stomach to the small intestine.

He had been pressing over this region with his fingers, in order to make the barium cover and thus show every bit of the stomach and its opening. And he

thought at first there might have been an ulcer there which his pressure had perforated.

Then he saw that the barium was flowing along parallel to the opening from the stomach to intestine and back along the outer curve of the stomach. Obviously, there were two openings into the intestine and two stomach structures.

At a second operation, the stomach again looked perfectly normal. But this time, with the X-rays giving the clue, the surgeon was able to feel a tubular structure running along the outside of the stomach all the way to the esophagus, or farther, where the food passage from the mouth enters the stomach.

The surgeon then cut across the small intestines and saw two distinct pyloric rings, or openings to the intestine. It was just like "looking directly at the end of a double-barreled shotgun," he reported.

The tube-like structure, which was the duplicate stomach, was cut away. Examination showed it had been the source of the bleeding and that it had many small ulcers.

With the ulcerated second stomach removed, the patient recovered and has been in good health for the two years since the operation.

Science News Letter, June 5, 1954

PSYCHOLOGY

Learn Languages Young

► CHILDREN SHOULD learn additional languages when they are young, studies by Dr. Wilder G. Penfield, brain surgeon and director of the Montreal Neurological Institute, have suggested. Dr. Penfield stated that learning a language is the human brain's first miracle.

The mechanism of speech is located in a small area normally on the left side of the brain. Injury to this area renders the patient speechless. In a year, speech may return as the other side of the brain takes over.

From studies made during the course of therapeutic surgery on humans, Dr. Penfield has found that children can learn a second or even third language without any effort. They must be associated with those speaking the other language before they reach the 10 to 14 age group. The little child develops speech as a series of conditioned reflexes to get what he wants. In the appropriate surroundings, he will readily use the words he has learned by association, for example, dog, or hund, or chien.

In bilingual Canada, this knowledge of the language-learning process could be readily applied, Dr. Penfield believes. The main thing is to let children hear language properly spoken at an early age. He points

out that the brain is a living mechanism going through inexorable changes, and it is soon senescent in regard to learning languages.

Dr. Penfield has just relinquished two major posts, to free himself from administrative duties that keep him from research. He will devote more time to study of the temporal lobe, the organization of speech, the mechanisms of epilepsy, memory and consciousness.

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INVENTION

Camera Would Take Fast Flash Pictures

► YOU COULD make rapid-fire indoor pictures of your children at play if some company would manufacture a new type of camera now patented.

The camera would resemble some of the popular bellows-type "candid" cameras now on the market, but it would permit you to shoot eight flash pictures almost as fast as you could roll the film.

Unless you can afford expensive and often cumbersome flash equipment that uses a single flash bulb over and over, you must change the flash bulb after each exposure.

The new camera gets around this by providing two flash reflectors, each of which houses four flash bulbs.

The bulbs are fired individually. When the film is wound, an unfired bulb is switched to the shutter mechanism. Thus the bulbs are "changed" automatically as the film is wound.

In action-packed basketball games and other sporting events, such a camera would be of great aid to photographers who sometimes miss good shots while getting ready for the next picture.

Patent No. 2,671,387 was issued to Thomas C. Knight of Grosse Point Woods, Mich., on his camera apparatus.

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