METEOROLOGY

Suggest Reverse of Cloud Seeding Method

➤ THE POSSIBILITY of making rain by removing particles from the air, the reverse of cloud seeding as now practiced, was suggested to the International Arid Lands Meetings in Albuquerque, N. M., by Dr. Glenn W. Brier of the U. S. Weather Bureau in Washington.

It would be interesting to discover, he said, how nature knows the best concentration for rain and how "overseeding" is prevented. Present rainmakers operate on the assumption that the natural supply of rain-forming nuclei is insufficient. They, therefore, attempt to add more by throwing various chemicals into the atmosphere. Adding too much might inhibit rainfall, Dr. Brier said.

Although he sees no "immediate solution to weather modification," there is "no reason to be pessimistic" about the future. "Man," he said, "is gradually learning to

"Man," he said, "is gradually learning to control such things as the atom, cancer, etc., and there is no good reason to think that weather is beyond his reach."

At one time only one mechanism for rainfall was known. Now several methods are being considered, indicating that if nature does not make it rain one way, she provides another.

Science News Letter, May 14, 1955

MEDICINE

New Surgery Technique Restores Use of Legs

➤ VICTIMS OF hardening of arteries of the thigh can regain normal use of their legs through an improved operation developed by Dr. Jack Cannon and Dr. Wiley Barker of the University of California at Los Angeles Medical School.

Hardening of the arteries results when cholesterol, a fatty substance, lines the interior walls of the arteries. When this happens in the thigh, the flow of blood to the leg is blocked, restricting its use. Gangrene frequently sets in, requiring amputation.

In the new procedure, an incision is made just above and below the plug. A loop of piano wire is inserted through the lower incision and the plug is stripped from the arterial wall and pushed out the upper incision.

In addition to the cholesterol plug, there generally occurs a thickening of portions of the arterial wall. After the plug has been removed, these layers tend to collapse with the restoration of blood flow, and again the flow is blocked. The U.C.L.A. doctors have found that by stitching these collapsed layers to the wall they can prevent this problem.

The new procedure only requires about two hours in surgery. Of 23 patients on which it has been performed, 20 have had normal pulse restored and have regained normal or almost normal use of their legs.

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