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SURGERY

Surgeons Repair Noses With Ear Lobes

► **EAR LOBES** make good nose tips.

The successful use of ear lobe tissue to repair nasal deformities in 17 patients was reported to the American Society of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery meeting in Chicago by Drs. Gordon Davenport and Frank D. Bernard of the University of Wisconsin Medical School.

A "tongue-in-groove" technique was used in shaping both the skin and underlying fat from the ear to fit the damaged portion of the nose.

The ear lobe is a useful substitute when the nose tip, the outer edge of the nostrils or the fleshy end of the nasal septum are injured.

Advantages of the technique are simplicity, the good color match and the possibility of using grafts of considerable size.

Earlier at the meeting Dr. Clarence R. Straatsma of New York College of Medicine listed the upper eyelid, the forehead and behind the ear as possible sources of skin transplants to an injured nose. Suitable skin must be free from hair follicles and match the facial skin in color and texture. The latter requirement makes skin from parts of the body normally covered by clothing unsuitable.

Automobile accidents and fights provide a steady stream of patients with noses sufficiently damaged to require plastic surgery, Dr. Straatsma said.

Restoration of the nose's natural function is the primary aim in reconstructive surgery although achieving a satisfactory appearance is also important.

Science News Letter, November 8, 1958

Questions

ASTRONOMY—What are three reasons for giving solar studies from satellites high priority? p. 291.

GENERAL SCIENCE—How is the Cerenkov radiation used? p. 293.

PALEONTOLOGY—Where has a rich fossil find been made? p. 296.

PSYCHOLOGY—How does alcohol affect an extrovert's driving skill? p. 294.

Photographs: Cover, Sloan-Kettering Institute for Cancer Research; p. 291, U. S. Navy; p. 293, United Press International Telephoto; p. 295, Wonder Building Corporation of America; p. 298, American Cancer Society; p. 304, Eastman Chemical Products, Inc.

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