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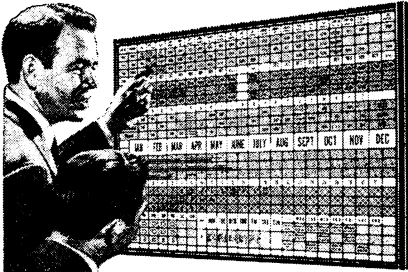
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GENERAL SCIENCE

Doctors May Soon Choke on Own Words

► **DOCTORS ARE** in danger of choking on their own time-honored terminology because of the reverence in which the romantic names of medical history have been held, said Dr. Burgess L. Gordon at the meeting of the International Congress on Chest Diseases in Mexico City.

No one has seemed willing to take upon his shoulders the responsibility of throwing out the old, outdated terminology and replacing it with the new. Dr. Gordon, a specialist in medical terminology as well as in lung diseases, noted that a significant attempt to straighten out the hodgepodge of medical jargon was made in 1933 with the publication of the Standard Nomenclature of Disease.

By 1950, however, the volume had become so expanded and complicated that only a well-trained medical record librarian could make use of it.

The latest attempt to straighten out medical terminology was initiated in 1962 when the AMA printed its Current Medical Terminology by computer. It is designed for rapid and frequent revision and it attempts to list and cross index preferred names for each disease along with a brief description.

What is common usage among one generation or group of physicians may be unknown to other doctors, he explained.

Because medical terminology was rooted in the dim past it has grown without proper organization and is still colored with hearsay and superstition, tangled up in whimsical stories. Even now, Dr. Gordon warned, terminology must be kept weeded out to keep the present attempt at organization from stagnating.

Dr. Gordon is also a member of the division of scientific activities, American Medical Association.

• Science News Letter, 86:308 November 14, 1964

MEDICINE

Blood Found Primary In Hardening of Arteries

► **EVIDENCE THAT** "fatty plaques" (or hardening of the arteries) are formed from the circulating blood was presented before the annual meeting of the American Heart Association in Atlantic City.

This finding contradicts the popular view that fatty plaques of atherosclerosis must start with initial changes in the artery wall itself, Drs. I. Ernest Gonzalez and Fred Vermeullen, University of California Medical Center, San Francisco, said.

Dacron ribbons were suspended in teflon tubes inserted into the chest aorta of rabbits with high fat levels in their blood. The scientists discovered that fatty plaques developed on these ribbons in 150 days. Since the dacron ribbon was in contact only with the blood, it was concluded that these plaques were formed from the constituents of the circulating blood. Similar plaques have been observed by the scientists in synthetic blood vessels grafted into human arteries.

• Science News Letter, 86:308 November 14, 1964

Questions

BIOCHEMISTRY—How has knowledge of sodium and potassium helped develop a dramatic new heart treatment? p. 309

ICHTHYOLOGY—What new theory has been developed about movements of fish? p. 313.

MILITARY SCIENCE—How can combustible cartridges save weight and money? p. 311.

PHYSICS—What are nuclear "ghosts?" p. 307.

PSYCHOLOGY—What have researchers learned about the cause of sleepwalking? p. 312.

TECHNOLOGY—How can a new appliance be programmed to cook an entire week's meals? p. 310.

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