

# Medical Sciences Notes

## TUMOR-TAMING DRUG

### **Drug Prepares Patients for Surgery**

Patients with a rare kind of tumor called pheochromocytoma can be prepared for necessary surgery through use of a new experimental drug.

Alpha methyl para-tyrosine is given by mouth, Dr. Karl Engelman of the National Heart Institute, Bethesda, Md., told the American College of Cardiology meeting in Washington, D.C.

Pheochromocytoma is usually benign but in five percent the cases are cancerous, and without the new drug patients cannot undergo surgery. Symptoms of the tumor include high blood pressure, excessive sweating and highly excited condition due to a relationship with the adrenal glands.

## HEART RESEARCH

### **Super-Heart-Care Units Planned**

Hospitals with intensive care units for heart-attack patients will have a chance to apply for contracts from the National Heart Institute, Bethesda, Md., this spring under a plan for additional equipment and researchers. Further reduction of the 400,000 deaths a year from the number one killer is the hope of the review boards that will award the contracts.

Dr. Stuart Bondurant, chief of the medical branch of the Institute's artificial heart-myocardial infarction pro-

gram, says "open free competition will begin March 24, but we don't expect to let contracts before late in the fiscal year which ends June 30, 1967."

About four contracts will be awarded this year, with an equal number next year and the year following, until \$11 million has been expended under the present plan.

Dr. Bondurant says with the information produced in the new study centers the broader Heart, Cancer and Stroke Centers in the already-moving Regional Health Centers program should have more aid in the work they have started. But it is expected to be at least two years before the follow-up work on patients will bear fruit.

## FLU OUTBREAK

### **Dental Students Get Asian Flu**

Asian flu has taken all winter to hit, but it struck more than 100 dental students in Atlanta, Ga., during the second week of February. Dr. Joel Kramer of the Public Health Services Communicable Disease Center in Atlanta says there have been no deaths, but that tests are being made to see whether or not Type A-2 influenza may have spread to the population at large.

No widespread epidemic of flu has been anticipated this year; it runs in cycles, PHS officials point out. The only other cases of definite Asian flu have been reported from the Wisconsin State Laboratory and in two of the military personnel at Ford Ord, Calif., during January and February.

# Social Science Notes

## PSYCHOLOGY

### **What Makes Students Tick?**

Good "organization men" are more likely to come from the ranks of engineering and business students than liberal arts students, according to a 300-page study from Northwestern University's Technological Institute. They are also more "security minded" than liberal arts types. Engineering students are less concerned with status than members of the other two groups.

Gilbert L. Krulee, chairman of the department of industrial engineering and management sciences, arrived at these conclusions after a six-year study of more than 1,100 students.

Undergraduates in engineering and liberal arts were found to place a higher value on intellectual competence than do business students.

## BIRTH CONTROL

### **HEW Approves Voluntary Sterilization**

The Department of Health, Education and Welfare recently reported its approval, in appropriate cases, of voluntary contraceptive sterilization for persons covered by agencies operating under HEW grants.

Dr. Philip R. Lee, Assistant Secretary for Health and Scientific Affairs, said ". . . (This) Department does not seek to control the particular medical or surgical procedures to be utilized by any of its grantees in the field of health. . . . Voluntary sterilization does not differ in this respect from other procedures. In our

view, this is a matter of professional judgment in an individual case, tailored to the medical needs of the specific circumstances in question."

In taking this view, HEW joins the Department of Defense and at least 12, possibly even 22, states participating in Medicaid (SN: 2/18) in giving the OK to this form of birth control. Sargent Shriver's Office of Economic Opportunity remains one of the few public agencies that maintains an edict against the use of its funds for voluntary sterilization.

## JUVENILE DELINQUENCY

### **Middle Class Exploitation**

Much middle-class delinquency can be described as antifamily, not antisocial, a University of Rochester, N.Y., psychologist said last week.

Dr. David Elkind proposed that the middle-class delinquent is very often rebelling against his parents' exploitation. Such exploitation is seldom recognized outside the family, but it seems to be a common theme, said Dr. Elkind in the January issue of *Mental Hygiene*. He listed four variations on the theme: parents who use their children for vicarious satisfaction, for ego bolstering, for slave labor and to proclaim their own "moral rectitude." Some examples: the mother who demands a "kiss-by-kiss" description of her daughter's affair and then condemns her, the parent who demands too much achievement, and the professional parent—clergyman or judge, for instance—who demands too much conformity because any lapse reflects on him, the parent. In all cases, the child is used, not restricted.