

MEDICINE

Test Devised for Measuring Efficiency of the Heart

College of Physicians Also Told of Research Revealing the Cause of Diseases and New Methods for Combating Them

A NEW test for heart efficiency was reported by Dr. Allen Eustis of New Orleans to the American College of Physicians, meeting in Baltimore last week.

The test is a valuable aid in the diagnosis and study of the type of heart disease known as myocardial insufficiency. The test may also be used with caution in cases of marked enlargement of the heart, angina pectoris and certain cases of high blood pressure. By means of this test the physician will have a new gauge of how well the diseased heart can function. The test depends on the rise in the systolic blood pressure following an increase in pressure within the chest caused by forcible expiration of the full breath under a definite amount of pressure. Dr. Eustis reported that clinical evidence corroborated the results of the test.

How chemicals known as nitrites act in relieving the agonizing pain of angina pectoris was discussed by Dr. Alex M. Burgess of Providence, R. I. From a large series of studies of normal and diseased hearts Dr. Burgess concluded that the action of the nitrites in increasing circulation in the coronary arteries is what relieves the excruciating pain. The cause of the pain in ambulatory angina, the type in which the patient is up and about, is probably an insufficient blood supply due to disease of coronary arteries, Dr. Burgess explained.

Use of oxygen in heart disease by a specially devised oxygen chamber or tent which keeps the temperature and the humidity at a comfortable level was described by the designer of the apparatus, Dr. Alvin L. Barach of New York City.

Liquor Not Blamed

Liquor was absolved from blame as being the chief cause of cirrhosis of the liver by Dr. A. M. Snell of the Mayo Clinic, Rochester, Minnesota. Dr. Snell said that, contrary to generally accepted

opinion, alcoholism caused cirrhosis in only half the cases of the disease. Furthermore, cirrhosis appears in only five per cent. of all alcoholic individuals.

The outlook for the patient suffering from this highly fatal disease is better now than it was years ago, Dr. Snell said, but it is still serious, particularly for advanced cases. Physicians are trying now to recognize the disease in the earlier stages when it may still be cured. Some of the early symptoms may be indigestion, weakness, vague abdominal pains and occasionally painless jaundice. Dr. Snell reported good results are obtained in some cases by newly devised operations for controlling bleeding from enlarged veins in the esophagus that are invariably present in cirrhosis.

Carbohydrates are of great value in the diet of animals suffering from extensive liver disease, Dr. J. L. Bollman, also of the Mayo Clinic, reported. A diet rich in sugar and starch will protect the liver from damage by poisons and will aid in its recovery after such injury, he found from his studies of animals.

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ANTHROPOLOGY

Stone-Age Men in Asia Probably Ate Ostriches

SIBERIANS of the Old Stone Age were probably like Noah, who according to Chesterton,

"... had an ostrich farm, with fowls on the largest scale;

"He ate his eggs with a ladle, from an egg-cup big as a pail."

At least, if they didn't herd ostriches, they very likely hunted them. For in the region beyond Lake Baikal in Siberia, Dr. A. Turgarinov of the Zoological Museum in Leningrad has been finding quantities of ostrich egg-shell fragments, many of them associated with stone tools of paleolithic date and some pierced with holes showing human workmanship.

This establishes a new "far north" for prehistoric ostriches, which are now



WORSHIPPED IN UR 2000 B.C.

When Abraham spent his boyhood days in Ur of the Chaldees, goddesses like the one in the picture were familiar objects. The goddess is represented in a bas relief of terra cotta, two and a half feet tall. She wears a long flounced skirt and on her head a horned headdress. The vase she carries is like a fountain from which streams of water flow. The goddess, unearthed in the ruins of a dwelling, is one of the most recent discoveries reported by the expedition of the University of Pennsylvania Museum and the British Museum.

confined to the comparatively low latitudes of northern Africa and Syria. The belief that the birds were really there, and that the shells were not carried in by man, is supported partly by the large number of the finds and especially by the discovery of at least one deposit of shells with no trace of human artifacts.

The ostriches, as nearly as can be judged from the shells, were related to the species now found in northern Africa.

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