

MEDICINE

Navy Mental Hospital

Front-line psychiatry has returned 50% of the patients to combat duty, and it is expected an even greater percentage will be cured.

➤ A NAVY HOSPITAL for mental patients in the South Pacific has already returned 50% of the Marine patients to combat duty and the Navy expects to cure an even larger percentage of war neurotics by its new policy of front-line psychiatry, according to a report by a Marine Corps Combat Correspondent, Sgt. George E. McMillan, of Alexandria, Va., released by the Navy Department.

"The Navy is moving psychiatrists into the front lines with Marines," he states.

"One will be assigned to each Marine divisional field hospital, thus completing what the Navy considers a comprehensive program for treatment of war neuroses in the South Pacific.

"The Navy program begins with preventive work in examining recruits, and will not end until the mentally sick Marine returns to his home cured and ready to resume his normal civilian pursuits.

"Psychiatrists are stationed in all Navy base and mobile hospitals, and one hospital in the South Pacific has been set aside for the particular treatment of

mental cases. It is situated outside the combat area in a city where peaceful civilian activities are carried on, where the climate is temperate, and where there are ample recreational opportunities.

"Necessary orders for assignment of psychiatrists to Marine units were issued recently by Capt. F. R. Hook (MC), USN, Admiral Halsey's Force Medical Officer, and the work will be carried on under the general direction of Capt. A. A. Marsteller (MC), USN, commanding officer of the hospital where most mental patients are sent.

"Front-line treatment, experience has shown, is especially effective in cases of anxiety neuroses.

"English doctors who used the method during the heavy bombing of London and after Dunkirk, estimate that as high as 70% of war neurotics can be cured if treated immediately.

"Anxiety neuroses are cases most easily treated, as distinguished from chronic neuroses, which are likely to be of greater duration.

"Examples of anxiety neuroses are

symptoms doctors call mutism, amnesia, and hysterical paralysis, among others.

"Here is a story of mutism. A Marine and his buddy fought for days through swamps, and slept in water-filled fox-holes. One morning the Marine looked up to see a Jap taking aim at his buddy. The Marine took aim at the Jap. His gun jammed. The Jap killed his buddy. The Marine was struck dumb.

"That is understandable to anyone," Captain Marsteller says. 'And it is just such cases as this that lend themselves to immediate skilful psychiatric treatment.'

"With such success, Captain Marsteller points out, that the man is not only able to talk again, but is able and eager to return to combat.

"Success depends upon three factors: 1. Immediate treatment. 2. That the men are not evacuated to base hospitals. 3. The skill, experience, the insight of the psychiatrist.

"The doctors chosen for this work have had years of psychiatric experience in civilian life, have worked with war neurotics, and have undergone indoctrination in Captain Marsteller's institution.

"Nothing succeeds in psychiatry of this kind,' Captain Marsteller adds, 'as much as the good old-fashioned qualities of common sense and sympathy. We are not going to send any doctors into combat who do not have an abundance of both.'"

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INVENTION

Machine Squeezes Oranges And Eliminates Peel Oil

➤ A MACHINE for squeezing juice out of oranges, grapefruit and other citrus fruits, without getting too much of the sharp-tasting peel oil into it, is covered by patent 2,353,841, granted to Ronald B. McKinnis of Winter Haven, Florida.

The round fruits are dropped into the machine in such a way that they are cut in two by sharp knives, and each half fitted automatically into a hemispherical depression in a revolving roller. The small amount of juice released by the cutting carries off the peel oil. Then the half-fruits in their cups are pressed against hemispherical projections carried on an opposing cylinder, and the juice is thus squeezed out. This part of the process is carried on in an atmosphere of neutral gas, without oxygen, to reduce deterioration of vitamins.

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