

MEDICINE

Coronary Optimism

► PHYSICIANS SHOULD be more optimistic about the recovery of those who suffer a first attack of acute coronary thrombosis.

Dr. Henry I. Russek of the U. S. Public Health Service Hospital, Staten Island, N. Y., and Dr. Burton L. Zohman of the State University College of Medicine at Brooklyn reported to the American College of Cardiology meeting in Chicago that only 3.4% of such patients died during the period of hospitalization after their attack.

Of those who survived the first 48 hours after the attack, only 1.8% died while hospitalized.

When such cases have survived the first two or three days, there is even greater justification for optimism. The two physicians find that the death rate in such cases is considerably less than the 5% mortality rate for pneumonia with antibiotic therapy.

Their analysis of 1,318 consecutive admissions for acute coronary thrombosis to three New York hospitals has shown that 611, or 46.4%, were an uncomplicated first attack. Thus, almost half of all cases are good risks.

"Physicians and patients of the present generation are well aware that heart disease is the most common cause of death in the United States," Drs. Russek and Zohman

observed. "The mortality rate of coronary artery thrombosis is quoted generally as ranging from 35% to 65% with an average of 50%.

"For many years victims of coronary disease have been so instilled with a fear of sudden death or a dread of permanent invalidism that the ensuing psychological effects have seriously limited physicians in providing the proper care and rehabilitation for these patients.

"Current medical teaching as well as contemporary texts on cardiovascular disease invariably emphasize that 'the outcome of an attack of acute coronary thrombosis is unpredictable because of the constant threat of sudden unexpected death even for persons convalescing favorably.'

"This prevailing view has been responsible for a gloomy outlook on the part of the attending physician even in cases presenting a benign clinical picture. Too often, indeed, the pronouncement of a poor prognosis represents an attempt on the part of the doctor to protect himself if the patient suddenly dies or to attribute to himself some virtue in his therapy if the patient does well while suffering from such a serious disease."

Science News Letter, June 12, 1954

ARCHAEOLOGY

Discover Soul Boat

► EXPLORATION OF the newly discovered model of a ship designed to carry the soul of the ancient Egyptian Pharaoh Cheops to its heavenly resting place may reveal to archaeologists something more than the little now known about the life and character of that greatest Pharaoh of a great dynasty.

This is the hope of archaeologists. The ship was found beneath a road beside the Great Pyramid at Giza built by Cheops. The hull was cut out of the solid rock and the ship sealed in by 15-ton limestone blocks.

The opening of a second model boat is expected next winter. Two model boats formed a part of the standard tomb furniture of Egyptian burials. The dead man was entitled to claim a place in the boats of Ra, the day boat and the night boat, which represented the sun in its travels across the sky by day and under the earth by night.

The Egyptians believed that the heaven of the Pharaohs was located in the eastern part of the sky. Common people went after death to the Elysian Fields in the western corner of the Underworld.

Archaeologists also hope that study of the boat for Cheops' soul may give scientists more information about how the ancient Egyptians built boats.

Comparable models of houses placed be-

side Egyptian tombs to serve as a dwelling place for the soul have showed the development of architecture from a primitive tent-like structure propped up with a couple of sticks to a two-story house with furniture, arched roof and ventilators.

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PHYSICS

Link 1,800 Counters To Record Cosmic Rays

► GEIGER COUNTERS spread over half a square mile will be tied together by a giant electronic "brain" to measure cosmic rays bombarding earth from outer space.

The 1,800 nuclear measuring devices will be recording arrival of particles with energies now entirely beyond the realm of man-made multi-billion volt machines. The computing device linking the 1,800 instruments will have been instructed how to handle this mass of data.

Australia will be the scene of this gigantic counting scheme, sponsored by the University of Sydney. The computer used will be the "Silliatic," a duplicate of the University of Illinois machine, "Illiac." The two institutions will conduct a joint research program on computers.

Science News Letter, June 12, 1954

• RADIO

Saturday, June 19, 1954, 3:15-3:30 p.m., EDT
"Adventures in Science" with Watson Davis, director of Science Service, over the CBS Radio Network. Check your local CBS station.

Dr. Dirk ter Haar, theoretical physicist at St. Andrews University, Scotland, will discuss "Re-evaluating Einstein's Theory."

At least 44 large industrial and scientific organizations in the United States are working on guided *missiles* under contract for the armed forces.

Although dusting or spraying of *insecticides* will do much to promote the healthy growth of fruits and vegetables, the same chemicals often can harm humans unless proper precautions are taken during application.

UNITRON

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