

MEDICINE

Auto Accidents Causing Whiplash Injury to Neck

► **WHIPLASH** injuries to the human neck are now common occurrences on the highway because of the large percentage of traffic accidents that involve standing cars, a regional meeting of the International College of Surgeons was told in White Sulphur Springs, W. Va.

The injuries, caused by a snapping back of the head, may be of such little effect at the time that the individual gives it no attention, but the symptoms can show up at a much later date, Vice Admiral Ross T. McIntire, Chicago, executive director of the College and former White House physician to President Franklin D. Roosevelt, pointed out.

The unprotected back of the neck is easily damaged when an automobile is rammed from behind, and the injury may involve any of the nerves there, he said.

"Very often symptoms do not arise, in cases where there have been no fractures, for a period of many years," he reported.

Some of the symptoms of whiplash injury Dr. McIntire listed were some degree of concussion often, a neuralgic type of pain over a large part of the neck, back of the head and lower portion of the face, and a headache that begins at the back of the skull and finally center behind one or both eyes.

If the force of the blow is at an angle, the neck may be severely rotated and cause other symptoms, he said. These include muscular spasms, dizziness, nausea and inability to see properly.

Eye troubles are persistent when whiplash injuries show up months or years after the accident, Dr. McIntire added.

Early diagnosis and treatment are important.

Science News Letter, March 23, 1957

BIOPHYSICS

Biophysicists Form National Society

► A NATIONAL SCIENTIFIC ORGANIZATION, temporarily called the Biophysical Society, was formed by 500 scientists attending the first National Biophysics Conference in Columbus, Ohio.

Biophysics is the application of physical principles, methods and techniques to the study of living things. It covers such subjects as the effects of atomic particle bombardment of the tiny chromosomes involved in cell division to the computer-like qualities of the human brain.

Dr. Robley C. Williams, University of California scientist famed for his studies using the electron microscope to visualize living matter, was elected chairman of the temporary council. The organizational meeting was sponsored by the U. S. Air Force's Office of Research and Development.

Science News Letter, March 23, 1957

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