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Questions

BIOCHEMISTRY—What chemical compound used in treatment of cardiovascular collapse has been found in bananas? p. 158.

ENGINEERING—How efficient is the new experimental model thermo-electron engine? p. 211.

MEDICINE—What is the best tool for detecting coronary sclerosis? p. 213.

Photographs: Cover, Keith W. Gunderson; p. 211, U. S. Naval Research Laboratory; p. 213, General Electric Company; p. 215, Kansas State College; p. 218, Army Engineer Research and Development Laboratories; p. 224, Bakelite Company.

Early Detection of Polyps Can Reduce Cancer Rate

► THE MONTHLY death rate of 2,500 from cancer of the colon can be reduced if people will heed the ample warning signs given prior to cancer development.

Polyps, gourdlike tumors that grow from the lining of the intestines, are usually the forerunners of malignancy or harmful tumors, Dr. Neil W. Woodward Sr., associate professor of surgery at the University of Oklahoma School of Medicine, told the 11th biennial Congress of the International College of Surgeons, meeting in Los Angeles, Calif.

Polyps can be detected by visual examination in about three-fourths of the cases and in nearly all of these the removal may be accomplished by a simple office procedure. Some may be discovered by X-ray.

The locations of colonic cancers and of polyps of the colon are practically identical. The polyp which originates in the mucous membrane is destined to be the origin of a cancerous growth if the individual lives long enough, conditions become favorable and the polyp is subjected to a malignant stimulus, the Oklahoma City surgeon said.

Warning signs which polyps create include blood in the stool in varying amounts, change of bowel habit, presence of excess mucus, pain which is generalized and vague in character, nausea or weakness.

Dr. Woodward urged that relatives of patients with polyps or cancer of the colon be examined because experience has shown there is a tendency for the disease to run in families.

Science News Letter, April 5, 1958

Do You Know?

Among the 3,000 selections and varieties of the U. S. Department of Agriculture's world soybean collection, there are four genotypes that show resistance to soybean cyst nematode.

Screwborers, small snails with file-like tongues, drill holes through the thin shells of baby oysters and devour them.

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