

MEDICINE

Ulcer Patients Aided

► A COLD toy balloon may mean the difference between life and death for patients with severe bleeding of the small intestine, stomach or esophagus.

Duodenal ulcer patients, in particular, have been aided by the new technique. This is one of the new medical developments reported in the *Journal of the American Medical Association* (April 4).

More than 20 persons have been treated

so far for "unrelenting hemorrhages" with a system of balloons and tubes that circulates a cool liquid in the stomach. In most cases bleeding was either stopped completely or slowed down, a team of researchers from the University of Minnesota Medical Center reports.

Earlier observations that cooling laboratory animals slowed down their gastric digestion considerably provided the basis

for the new technique. Where the digestive activity of the gastric juice is responsible for continued bleeding and erosion of the stomach or intestinal lining, this treatment may be used, the researchers say.

Such cases of massive vomiting of blood caused by gastrointestinal bleeding should not be treated with this cold balloon technique if cancer, abnormal blood conditions or other "miscellaneous disorders" are suspected.

Drs. Owen H. Wangensteen, Harlan D. Root and Peter A. Salmon, and Ward O. Griffen Jr. described the new technique and its uses.

Other medical research reported in the *Journal* include details of a new drug for treating hypertension and the development of a line of "functional fashions" for the physically handicapped.

The new drug, a derivative of Rauwolfia, does not have as many or as severe bad side effects as Rauwolfia and its other derivatives. The Galveston, Texas, researchers who gave the drug to patients with essential hypertension report only four cases of "relatively minor" intolerance to the drug. Drs. George R. Herrmann, Elmer B. Vogelpohl, Milton R. Hejtmancik and James C. Wright, of the University of Texas Medical Branch, made the studies with syrosingopine as the new drug is called.

A top fashion designer, in cooperation with the New York University-Bellevue Medical Center's Institute of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, has come to the aid of the physically handicapped. Special garments have been designed and are now available through Clothing Research, Inc., of New York. The garments combine good looks with such features as special closings, pockets, pads and pleats, Dr. Howard A. Rusk and Eugene J. Taylor report.

Science News Letter, April 18, 1959

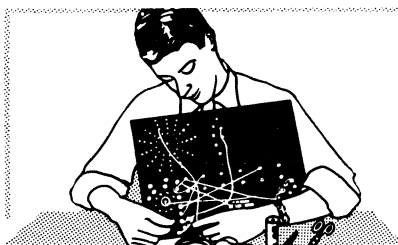
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