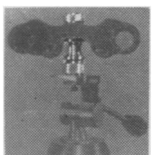


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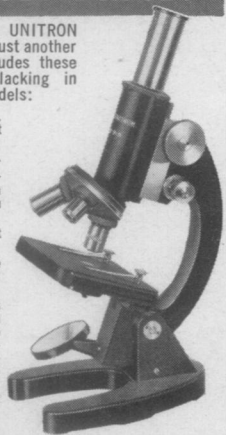
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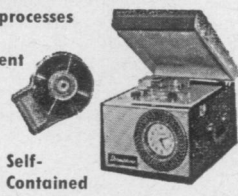
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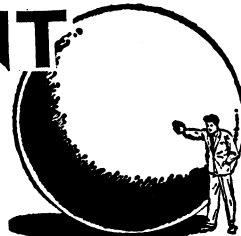
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MEDICINE

Dragnet for Special Blood Pressure Victims

► **VICTIMS** of a difficult-to-diagnose high blood pressure disease, but surgically curable in most cases when properly diagnosed, are being sought in a nation-wide "dragnet."

Command post for the medical man hunt is the University of California, Los Angeles, Medical School, with Dr. Morton Maxwell as project director. Some 19 other institutions, including the Los Angeles Veterans Administration Center, Harvard, Michigan, Northwestern and Tulane universities, are participating in the study, which is supported by the U. S. Public Health Service.

The problem is to distinguish between the potentially curable type of high blood pressure and the incurable kind.

The curable form is associated with impaired blood supply to one or both kidneys and is known as renovascular hypertension. It can frequently be cured by surgical correction of a narrowed artery leading to the kidney or removal of the diseased kidney itself.

The other type of high blood pressure is essential hypertension, a more widespread form. Its cause is unknown, and there is no known cure, although it may be controlled by blood pressure-lowering drugs.

Several new tests, including X-ray procedures and radioactive kidney function tests, have been developed in recent years to aid in diagnosis and selection of patients who would benefit from surgery.

Results of such tests and other information will be collected by participating institutions from a large number of patients. These data will be statistically analyzed and critically evaluated at UCLA.

Preliminary studies performed at UCLA and elsewhere have demonstrated that a 72% or higher "cure rate" is possible among the "kidney hypertension" patients. With improved screening methods for the disease, most of this group of patients may be identified and surgically cured.

• Science News Letter, 79:222 April 8, 1961

Questions

DENISTRY—What is the probability of curing early mouth cancer? p. 214.

GENERAL SCIENCE—When will the 12th National Science Fair-International be held in Kansas City, Mo.? p. 214.

MEDICINE—How large a percentage of boxers tested in Ceylon had suffered loss or impairment of memory? p. 217.

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