

MEDICINE

Doctors Are Reading—

► **BULGING BLOOD VESSELS** (aneurysms) in the brain, which in some cases cannot be corrected by tying off the circulation, are responding to a new surgical technique that uses plastic coating or "jackets."

A 40-year-old female college teacher and two other patients have been able to resume their duties after brain surgery that enclosed the dilated part of the blood vessels in rapid-hardening silicone rubber.

This plastic coating is tough enough to contain the dilated vessel so it cannot rupture or exert harmful pressure on surrounding nerves and tissues. The "jacket" also is elastic enough to allow the blood to flow unimpeded.

The California researchers who report these cases in the Journal of the American Medical Association, 179:935, 1962, state that further study is needed to evaluate their technique. Reporting the study are Drs. Edwin M. Todd, C. Hunter Shelden, Benjamin L. Crue Jr. and Robert H. Pudenz, with William F. Agnew, Institute of Medical Research and the Department of Neurosurgery, Collis P. and Howard Huntington Memorial Hospital, Pasadena.

► Whether or not to drive a car after taking sedatives, tranquilizers, energizers or other drugs affecting the behavior of the patient depends on the adjustment of the individual, Dr. James C. Miller of the Mental Health Research Institute, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, reports (p. 940).

New compounds that can affect the central nervous system should be tested for their effect on the driver's steadiness and vision. In some cases patients are safer drivers after taking pills for several days and becoming tolerant.

► A rare case of heart attack in the eighth month of pregnancy was reported at the Massachusetts Memorial Hospitals, Boston. The patient survived and gave birth to a healthy boy, Drs. Eli Shapiro, Richard J. Rosen, Bernard Lederman and Robert J. Carey report. Only 30 such patients have been reported, eight of whom died within two days following the attack (p. 966).

► Shivering warms you up, Dr. Robert E. Smith, University of California, Los

Angeles, reports, explaining that violent shivering can result in as much as a four-fold increase in body heat production (p. 948).

► Narcotic addiction resulted in perforation of the nasal septum among some five percent of 2,185 patients examined at Bellevue Hospital, New York, Dr. Emanuel Messenger reports. Inspection of the nose with a pocket flashlight should be a routine procedure in medico-legal work, he advises (p. 964).

► Dry-cleaning note: Ventilation control in coin-operated dry cleaning establishments is needed for the protection of the public as well as for employees, a Royal Oak, Mich., physician is told in answer to a question on the toxicity of cleaning solutions (p. 994).

• Science News Letter, 81:223 April 7, 1962

PUBLIC HEALTH

Experts Recommend Combating Pollution

► **AN ADVISORY COMMITTEE** of top scientific experts recommended the establishment of a National Environmental Health Center to safeguard man's environment from pollution.

The committee, headed by Dr. Paul Gross, president of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, made the recommendation in a report to Dr. Luther L. Terry, Surgeon General of the U. S. Public Health Service.

The center would act as a focal point for a stepped-up effort to curb the nation's mounting pollution problems. It would also support research, training and technical programs in universities, state and local governments and other institutions throughout the nation.

The committee also recommended doubling by 1970 the number of scientists now engaged in environmental health work. Less than 27,000 engineers, chemists, physicists and other scientists now come under this category.

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Questions

ANTHROPOLOGY—By what method was a creature 14,000,000 years old dated? p. 211.

EDUCATION—How many boys and girls are expected to drop out of school during the next decade? p. 217.

SPACE—How old was astronaut John H. Glenn Jr. when he began astronaut training? p. 210.

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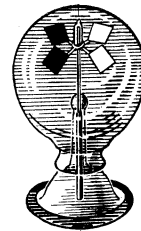
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