

Needless Operations

MANY operations could be avoided by careful study of the mental and nervous factors, Dr. George A. Moleen of Denver said at the recent American Medical Association meeting. He told of cases in which persons suffered from what appeared to be conditions requiring surgical operations. Yet these people recovered when their mental distress was relieved, without any operation.

Severe mental and emotional shock may cause various disturbances of stomach and intestinal tract and may even play a part in the development of stomach ulcers, Dr. Moleen said. Shock of other kinds is known to affect the stomach. For instance, the shock of a broken bone in arm or leg often causes nausea or vomiting. In susceptible persons who have easily upset mental and nervous systems, the secretions of the stomach, liver and pancreas are distinctly influenced by shock to the mind and emotions. This condition has not received the attention it deserves, Dr. Moleen said.

Medicine

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Curing Epilepsy

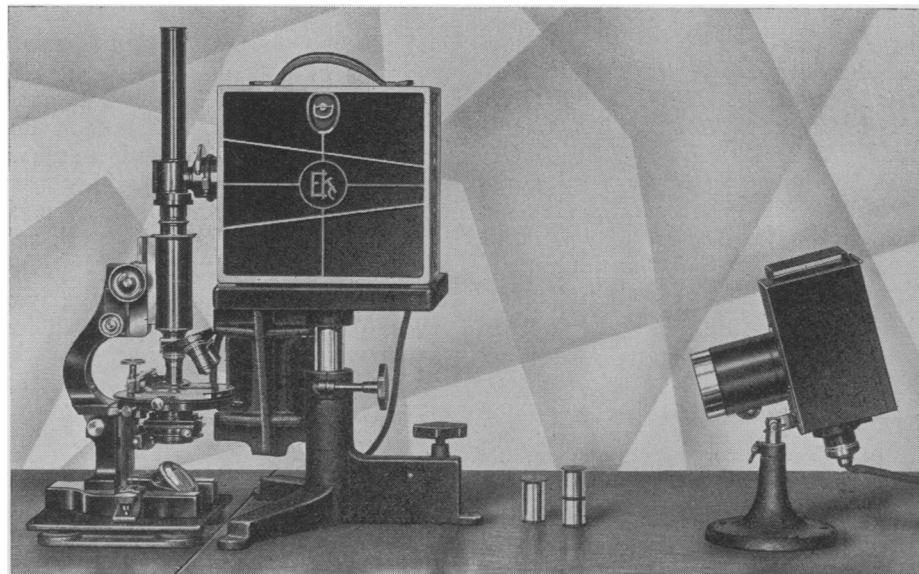
MANY encouraging cures of epilepsy were reported by Dr. Henry F. Helmholz and Dr. Haddow M. Keith of Rochester, Minn. The physicians used a diet high in fat content, known as the ketogenic diet. It was worked out by Dr. Russel M. Wilder, formerly of the Mayo Clinic and now at the University of Chicago. The diet gets its name from substances called ketones which are produced in excessive amounts in the blood of persons following it.

Epilepsy is one of the most difficult maladies doctors have to combat. Because little is known definitely about it, anything which has been tried in the way of treatment and cure has been little more than a stab in the dark. The Rochester physicians have been working with this special diet for eight years. During that time they have followed 141 patients who kept faithfully to the diet. Of these 43 are cured, Dr. Helmholz said.

They have not suffered epileptic attacks for periods varying from one to seven years. Thirty-two more patients were definitely improved while 66 definitely did not improve. Some of those who were improved were able to return to a normal diet while others suffered recurrences of the disease when they abandoned the diet.

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