

MEDICINE

# Gland Therapy Treats Heart Disease Successfully

## Removal of Normal Thyroid Gave Better Results In 64 Cases Than Did Any Other Treatment

**R**EMARKABLE success in the treatment of heart disease by removal of the normal thyroid gland was described at the University of Minnesota by Dr. Elliott Carr Cutler, surgeon-in-chief of Peter Bent Brigham Hospital, Boston, and professor of surgery at the Harvard Medical School.

Dr. Cutler discussed this radical and sensational form of surgery wherein a part of the body distant to the diseased part but having an effect upon it is attacked by the surgeon, as an example of the surgery of the future.

He spoke of this change in the treatment of the body as a unit as "A progression from anatomical to physiological surgery."

"It is a step," he said, "representing the greatly increased knowledge of the function of the body and offering the hope that surgery will become less and less a method by which parts of the body have to be removed in order to effect relief."

Reporting observations made on 64 cases in which the thyroid was removed, Dr. Cutler said that "in spite of the almost hopeless condition of many of the cases either because of decompensation or angina pectoris, results were far more favorable than those following any other methods of therapy."

Total thyroidectomy for heart disease was proposed in 1932 and the first operation of this type was reported in 1933.

### Close Relationship

Dr. Cutler pointed out that both experimental studies and bedside clinical observations had shown a close relationship between the thyroid gland and the heart, and it is known that patients who suffer repeated attacks of over-secretion of this gland (thyrotoxicosis) eventually show signs of heart failure.

Further observations showed that the speed of the blood flow roughly paralleled the basal metabolism in the body, rising when the basal metabolic rate was elevated and vice versa. Influence over the basal metabolic rate is only one function of the thyroid gland but, since it

can be measured by a simple test, is commonly used as an indication of thyroid gland function.

In patients with decompensated hearts the speed of blood flow is slow. This inter-relationship, said Dr. Cutler, suggested that when the circulatory rate in such patients could not be raised by rest, drugs or other means of medical therapy, the basal metabolic rate should be slowed by removing the thyroid gland.

In the 64 cases recounted, the only ones reported thus far, Dr. Cutler found that thyroidectomy did drop the basal metabolic rate, which in turn demanded a slow rate of circulation. When this demand dropped to the point where it could be supplied by the crippled heart, equilibrium was established and compensation resulted.

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MEDICINE

## New Disease Like Flu Puzzling Physicians

**C**ITY and private health authorities of San Diego, Calif., are puzzling over a new illness which carries all the outward symptoms of influenza, but which does not cause any change in the patient's temperature.

While several cases of the disease have been reported, the authorities do not regard it as having reached epidemic proportions.

Those afflicted suffer all the ordinary phases of influenza—head and body aches, congested throat and nose, and general sluggishness—but run no fever whatever.

Some private practitioners are attempting in their laboratories to determine whether or not it is due to a hitherto unknown bacterium, while public health authorities are basing their investigations on the assumption it is an allergic infection, similar to hay fever.

"Any bacteriological attack is bound either to raise or lower the body temperature," Dr. Alex Lesem, city-county

health director, commented. "These cases, since there is no temperature change, probably come from some chemical reaction. Recent discoveries in hay fever and similar ailments show us that almost any kind of food or outside material can cause running noses, aches, and congested areas."

The disease is usually thrown off in a few days, leaving the patient none the worse for his experience, the doctors agreed.

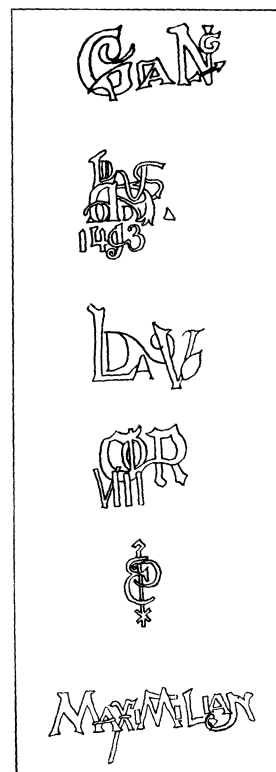
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ARCHAEOLOGY

## One of Mellon Paintings Center of Controversy

**O**NE of Andrew Mellon's paintings offered the nation is the center of controversy over who painted it: Botticelli or the great master of many arts, Leonardo da Vinci.

Usually credited to Botticelli, "The Adoration of the Kings" bears obscure signatures and inscriptions that mark it from the brush of Leonardo. This is the contention of Prof. J. D. Paulson of



### FAMOUS NAMES

*Names and monograms found by Prof. Paulson on the painting he believes to be a lost da Vinci. The monogram of da Vinci is said to appear twice, once on the shoulder of his own portrait with date 1493, again, lower center as a signature.*



#### CONTROVERSIAL PICTURE IN MELLON ART

*Famous people of Leonardo da Vinci's day, and Leonardo himself, were models for this painting, and portraits are actually identified by names or monograms, claims Prof. Paulson, arguing that "The Adoration of the Kings" is a lost da Vinci masterpiece. Among ten celebrities thus said to be immortalized are Emperor Maximilian (foremost kneeling figure, left); Charles the Eighth of France (standing, crowned, beside Maximilian); Leonardo (third from front in right group, standing with folded arms).*

North Carolina State College, put forth a year ago.

If his contention wins acceptance, it means that the painting may be prized even more highly than it is now.

Prof. Paulson, who studies famous paintings of uncertain authorship for signatures and inscriptions, detected a number of portraits and names, including that of Leonardo, on the picture of the kings offering their gifts.

That da Vinci's name was added later is the tentative verdict of Prof. Frank J. Mather, Jr., professor emeritus of art and archaeology of Princeton University, one of the critics consulted by Prof. Paulson.

Prof. Mather said:

"I believe inscriptions discovered by Paulson are there, but not of the period of the picture and of no significance for the problem of authorship. I think the inscriptions have been added later by some ill-informed and too-hopeful owner."

The painting, once in the Russian royal Hermitage, has been considered a Botticelli for over half a century.

Prof. Paulson has urged that ultraviolet ray photography would show whether or not the signature and other inscriptions are part of the original work or later additions.

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#### PSYCHIATRY

## New Personality Tests Described to Psychiatrists

**A** NEW test which gives a clue to a man's personality by showing just how he reacts to a baffling situation was described by Dr. Saul Rosenzweig, of Worcester, Mass., State Hospital, at the meeting of the American Orthopsychiatric Association.

The new test may also throw further light on certain mental disorders, since in these conditions patients react in one

of three ways to baffling situations.

Instead of asking questions to find how the patient takes defeat or failure, the psychiatrist using the new test gives the patient a number of problems to solve within a limited time. The problems are chosen so that the majority of them cannot be solved within the time limit.

As a result the patient finds himself

up against the type of situation which psychologists call frustration. How he meets this situation is what the examining psychiatrist wants to know. The new test, Dr. Rosenzweig believes, will give the answer more truly than the old method of asking the patient what he would do under such circumstances.

When a person experiences frustration, Dr. Rosenzweig explained, there are, in addition to the objective way three common subjective ones in which he may react.

"For one thing, he may blame the external world (other people or things), display anger, and await an opportunity for revenge. This sort of reaction may be called 'extrapunitive.'

#### May Blame Himself

"Again, he may blame himself when frustrated and have feelings of unworthiness, humiliation or guilt. This kind of reaction may be called 'intro-punitive.'

"Finally, there is a sort of subjective reaction to frustration in which the person attacks neither the external world nor himself and is more interested in condoning than in condemning. He attempts to pass off the unhappy occurrence as an accident, something that no one could have helped and that no one was to blame for, even if doing this involves a certain amount of self-deception. This manner of reacting to frustration may be termed 'impunitive.' All three designations are derived from the Latin root meaning to punish; the prefix indicates the attitude toward and the direction of the punitiveness.

"Studies are being made to determine whether individuals follow some one of these types of reaction consistently, at least in a given kind of situation. In the first instance, these types, it will be noted, are intended to apply to particular reactions rather than to total personalities. Whether they can be extended in the latter direction remains to be seen."

#### Another Trait Measured

Ability to get along in the world is another personality trait that will soon be measured by a scientific test just as intelligence now is.

First steps in the development of such a test were reported to the same meeting by Dr. Edgar A. Doll of the Training School at Vineland, N. J.

The ability of the ordinary man or woman to manage himself and his affairs "with ordinary prudence" is pretty thoroughly tested in daily life. Lack