



MEDICINE

Automobile Makers Urged To Give First Aid Handbook

Many Traffic Injuries Result in Death Because Patients Are Not Given Proper Care at Time of Accident

IF automobile manufacturers would supply an illustrated first aid handbook with every car, it would help to cut down the "dire and far too frequently disastrous results following automobile accidents."

The proposal of a first aid handbook with every automobile was made by Dr. Charles S. Venable of San Antonio, Tex., at the meeting of the Southern Medical Association.

The folding jack handle in every car makes a good arm or leg splint, Dr. Venable said, but unfortunately Mr. John Q. Public does not know this. Neither, Dr. Venable pointed out, does Mr. Public know that a piece of fence or a small limb from a tree can be used for a splint.

Instead of using such handy objects, he jackknives a person with leg or back broken in an auto accident into the back seat of a car. As a result a simple broken leg bone may result in lifelong disability. Or the patient with the broken back, doubled up into the rear seat instead of being left flat on the ground till an ambulance comes, arrives at the hospital with his spinal cord crushed and may be paralyzed or die. If the patient with broken back or neck is kept in a flat, horizontal position, Dr. Venable ex-

plained, he has a good chance to recover without disability.

Three cardinal principles of first aid which should be universally known, Dr. Venable claims, are the recognition and proper treatment of shock, the control of hemorrhage, and the fixation by splints of joints both above and below a broken bone and the danger of bending the back or neck of a person who complains of pain in these regions.

Better Housing Urged

REPLACING the poorer homes in the nation by proper housing facilities and eliminating other bad effects of housing were recommended, as measures for prevention of rheumatic fever, by Drs. Carroll M. Ponders and James K. Gray, of the University and Crippled Children's Hospitals, Oklahoma City.

Rheumatic heart disease, according to one estimate quoted by Drs. Ponders and Gray, makes up from 35 to 40 per cent. of all cases of heart disease among adults.

Rheumatic fever is not just a disease of the joints, the Oklahoma City physicians pointed out. It is an infectious disease which affects various parts of the

body, but shows up chiefly in the heart, the joints and surrounding structures, the nervous system and tissues just under the skin. When the nervous system is affected, the condition is termed chorea or St. Vitus' Dance.

"It is predominantly a disease of school age," Drs. Ponders and Gray stated, "and flourishes among the poor where there is overcrowding, bad sanitation, improper heating and damp dwellings. It is of great importance because of its contribution to cardiac (heart) invalidism and deaths, both during childhood and later adult life."

The exact germ which causes the ailment is not known, but the Oklahoma City physicians suggested that probably the germ, whatever it is, remains alive in the body tissues over long periods of time, repeatedly flaring up to cause more attacks of illness.

No idea of the actual number of cases of the ailment is possible because the disease is not reportable like scarlet fever or measles. It is generally estimated to make up from three to seven per cent. of the medical diseases observed in children's hospitals. Girls seem to be somewhat more susceptible to this ailment than boys.

Dampness and chilling are regarded as important factors in the disease. The general use of natural gas for cooking and heating is, in the opinion of Drs. Ponders and Gray, responsible for producing artificially in the semi-arid southwest the damp environment that is strongly conducive to this illness. This natural gas, being a hydrogen gas, it was explained, produces a great deal of moisture when burned. The very poor people in this region who live in tents and shacks do not have as much of the disease as the better class of poor who burn gas in tightly constructed, poorly ventilated dwellings, where it "is not uncommon to see the furniture, walls and ceiling literally dripping wet in real cold weather."

For treatment of active cases of rheumatic fever Drs. Ponders and Gray advised long periods of rest, nourishing food and proper hygiene with a gradual resumption of exercise after activity of the infection is thought to be arrested.

New Theory of Hard Arteries

A NEW theory of what causes hardening of the arteries, which in turn is important as a cause of heart, kidney and brain disease, was presented by Dr. Neuton S. Stern, associate professor of

medicine at the University of Tennessee College of Medicine.

Dr. Stern blames the condition on blockage or inflammation of very tiny blood vessels within the walls of the arteries themselves. As a result of such blockage of these tiny vessels, called vasa vasorum, cells of the artery walls which are normally nourished with blood from the tiny vasa vasorum are deprived of the oxygen and food they need. Consequently they degenerate with the changes known as arteriosclerosis or hardening of the arteries.

Up to this time, Dr. Stern said, it has not been fully accepted by scientists that the walls of arteries are penetrated beyond the outer one-third by these nourishing blood vessels or vasa vasorum. Dr. Stern presented evidence for his belief that the entire artery wall is permeated by these very small blood vessels.

Injury, certain poisons, and increased stickiness of the blood itself are among the things that may cause blockage of the blood vessels of the artery walls. Other things causing blockage, Dr. Stern said, may be clumps of bacteria, fat globules, and masses of white blood cells.

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ARCHAEOLOGY

Metal Art Proves Glories Of Persian Wonder Throne

IF YOU have heard of the wonder throne built for Persian king Chosroes the Second, and if you doubted that any monarch really enjoyed quite so curious a contrivance you need doubt no longer.

The king really did have a throne that was a pavilion, big enough for himself and hundreds of his courtiers besides. The whole thing really did turn, so that it could face the heavens most favorably in different seasons. And it was royally beautiful, and set in the midst of a lovely garden.

The throne itself can never be found, because Romans burned it when they overthrew the powerful Sassanian dynasty of Persian kings in the seventh century A.D. But in the State Museum at Berlin there is a big bronze salver made about that time, which is engraved to show a building in the center of a radiating garden.

This metal picture has been identified. Dr. Phyllis Ackerman of the American Institute for Iranian Art and Archaeology, says it represents the lost throne of King Chosroes.

The engraving shows a pavilion with small central dome and four corner



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