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BOTULISM BULLETIN: Type E botulinus antitoxin in a polyvalent preparation in limited supply may be obtained, on an emergency basis, from the U.S. Public Health Service Communicable Disease Center at Atlanta, Ga., by phoning day and night: Area Code 404—634-2561. This antitoxin should be used only when the suspected vehicle is fish or fish products, such as smoked fish, canned tuna, and salmon eggs. In other cases of botulism, use should be made of bivalent A and B antitoxin, for which contact would be made with Lederle Laboratory representatives.

By 1973, emotional stress may have attained the status of an occupational disease, according to Dr. Luther L. Terry, Surgeon General of the United States. Dr. Terry made this forecast in a symposium, sponsored by the New York Heart Association, in which twenty-seven scientists expressed their views about the accomplishments of scientific research during the next decade. Some of the other predicted advances were:

1. The substitution of a young heart for an old one.
2. The invention of a completely mechanical heart to be implanted in the body.
3. The isolation of the substance that makes it possible for some animals to hibernate. Used in people, this substance could bring the circulation to a near-standstill and give surgeons a simpler method of operating inside a stilled heart.
4. The discovery of knowledge about the cause or causes of atherosclerosis.
5. The control of hypertension and various types of stroke to the point where they will be rendered relatively benign.
6. Advances in the field of genetics that will make it possible to affect the chemistry of chromosomes and genes and thereby prevent or better control hereditary diseases.

In some ways, a diseased kidney seems to get better as it gets worse. As the disease spreads and more and more of the kidney is destroyed, the still intact portion organizes itself to take over some of the impaired section’s tasks, such as the removal of wastes and the maintenance of chemical balance with respect to certain minerals and salts. These conclusions have been arrived at by Dr. Neal S. Bricker, head of the renal division of the Washington University Medical School, on the basis of a long series of experiments with dogs, confirmed by findings in three human patients.

Dr. Bricker’s conclusions are likely to bring about some revisions in the treatment of patients with kidney ailments. For example, they

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Information (continued from page 34) contradict the belief that such patients should be placed on salt-free diets. According to Dr. Bricker, a regulated salt diet, carefully established for each patient, can be maintained, since the diseased kidney “learns” to handle continuing salt intake. A salt-free diet might even have an adverse effect, since the unimpaired part of the kidney, having stepped up its salt-excreting activities, might pass more salt into the urine than it should under a salt-free diet and thus upset the chemical balance.

Dr. Bricker emphasizes the fact that in certain respects the surviving kidney segment cannot compensate for the dead section. Urea excretion, in particular, is not subject to the adaptive process, so that as parts of the kidney are destroyed the stage is set for uremia, a potentially fatal condition.

Dr. Bricker’s investigations, which are continuing, receive support from the American and St. Louis Heart Associations.

Information about the income of persons over 65 and the expenditures for their medical care is contained in two fact sheets issued by the Office of Aging, Welfare Administration, U.S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare.

“Incomes of Older People, 1960-61” (Fact Sheet No. 7) reports on two categories of older persons—“older families,” in which the head of the family is 65 or over, and “older unrelated individuals,” who are persons of 65 or over who live alone or with non-relatives but not in institutions. The 1961 median income of the 6.7 million older families was $3,026, or about half the $6,099 median income of younger families. The median income of the 4 million older individuals was $1,106, or 41 percent of the median income of their under-65 counterparts.

Three major factors account for the unfavorable economic position of the older population: the lack of...
ACCIDENTS took the lives of 101,000 people in the United States in 1963 and cost the nation more than 15 billion dollars, according to Paul V. Joliet, chief, Division of Accident Prevention, U.S. Public Health Service. Dr. Joliet stated that the public health techniques that have proved successful in bringing many communicable diseases under control should be applied to the accident prevention problem.

Arthritis and related diseases are the subject of a massive U.S. Public Health Service study, for which Sudbury, Mass., is serving as a giant testing laboratory. During the period January–April, 1964, the 6,000 citizens of this town who are over 15 are being asked to undergo simple blood tests for sugar, uric acid, and the rheumatoid factor. After the initial testing, 15 percent of the participants will be invited to continue furnishing data for the project.