



FIRST POWERED FLIGHT—A "Little Joe II" launch vehicle, positioned 85 degrees from horizontal, is ready for its first powered flight test to verify its performance. A dummy Apollo command module, simulating the size and weight of the payload with escape tower, is mounted on the solid fuel vehicle. The test is the first in a series at White Sands Missile range, New Mexico, in the development of the Apollo project. (UPI)

The Medical Roundup

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Increased Incidence of Cardiovascular Disease in Women Without Ovaries

Drs. N. Higano, and R. W. Robinson, and W. D. Cohen, Ph. D. tell us that in a group of pre-menopausal women with both ovaries removed, they found a four-fold increase of heart damage due to ulceration of the arteries.



In addition, during the two years following a partial hysterectomy (removal of the womb), more new coronary attacks came to the completely castrated women than to the women in a similar group who had been allowed to keep one or both ovaries. Also, less disease of the arteries developed in the castrated women who were given estrogen (ovarian hormones) every day than in the castrated women who were left untreated. These observations add to the evidence obtained from other sources—all showing that to some extent estrogens can protect against the development of heart attacks.

Because of these observations, when a surgeon removes a woman's womb he should make every effort to save her ovaries. In the past, many surgeons have routinely removed the ovaries with the idea that this would save the woman from some day getting an ovarian cancer.

One fact these surgeons ignored, was that many a woman who has lost her ovaries also loses her sexual interest, her sexual feeling or her joy in life that her marriage goes on the rocks. Some women become decidedly depressed, and many suffer terribly from flushes. What the surgeons did not know until recently was that even the shrunken little ovaries of a menopausal woman secrete a certain amount of estrogen—an amount sufficient to help in protecting her arteries from the disease.

Anesthesia For The Pains of Childbirth

A number of women have been asking me about present-day methods for the relief of the pain of childbirth. I was just reading an article by Dr. A. J. Kobak, M. S. Sadove, and A. J. Kobak, Jr., of Chicago, who say that at the beginning of labor, while the cervix (the neck of the womb) is being dilated, they inject near it a local anesthetic which will relieve the pain produced by such dilation.

Later, when labor is further advanced they inject a local anesthetic into the muscles of the floor of the pelvis. Also they may give sedatives by mouth shortly before the child is to be born. Some called this use what is called a "saddle block" in which a local anesthetic is injected around the nerves that come out through the sacrum—the bone that lies between the two hip bones.

Early Cancer of the Womb

It is sad that some 65 per cent of the women who nowadays come into a big clinic with a cancer of the neck of

the womb have neglected the situation so long that they have a tumor so large that it no longer can be removed surgically. It has grown into surrounding organs. Fortunately, in these cases powerful radiotherapy often helps, and helps a great deal.

It would be much better if all middle-aged and older women, at least once a year, would get a so-called Papanicolaou (Pap test) test which can be obtained so easily and without the least discomfort. I was just reading an article by Dr. J. H. Ferruson and Sergio Leon who tell of the smears that they made on nearly 4,000 women as they waited in the emergency room in a big hospital. One of these women had her life saved simply because she happened to have sprained her ankle. While she was waiting to have it x-rayed, one of the doctors asked her if she had ever had a "Pap test," and when she said, "No" and that she would like to have one, it was made. It showed cancer in a stage in which no ulcer or tumor could be seen. But when her womb was removed, and cut open, there one could easily see plenty of cancer.

Among the many women who had the test, 6.6 per cent were found to have a cancer. The important point which all women past the age of 30 should note is that in 43 cases in which the smear of mucus obtained from the neck of the womb showed cancer cells, there was as yet no ulceration to be seen.

A Urethral Caruncle

Many aging women have a urethral caruncle which is a tiny red tumor which grows in the outer end of the urethra (the tube that carries urine out of the bladder). It is not cancerous and the cause is unknown. It appears usually after the menopause. There may be some slight bleeding, or occasional pain.

In most cases, the caruncle can be ignored. If it becomes troublesome, it can be destroyed with a silver nitrate stick, or with electric sparks (after injection of a little procaine). Large caruncles may have to be cut out.

Did you know that you should not get your blood pressure measured too often? Dr. Alvarez' booklet "High Blood Pressure" gives you all the facts about high blood pressure and its treatments. To obtain your copy, send 25 cents and a stamped, self-addressed envelope with your request to Dr. Walter C. Alvarez, Dept. MMT, Box 957, Des Moines, Iowa 50304. (Released by The Register and Tribune Syndicate, 1963)

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