



Remember two times two is four . . . three goes into six twice and all that silly ol' stuff . . .

Surgeons, Engineer Developing New Plastic Valve for Hearts

A plastic replacement for one of the key valves of the heart, is being developed by a team of surgeons and engineers at St. John's hospital, Santa Monica, with support from the Los Angeles County Heart Assn.

Rodney T. Smith, M.D., chief of cardiovascular surgery at St. John's hospital, and his associates, James A. McEachen, M.D., Jack Cannon, M.D., and Paul Roos, engineer, have received a grant of \$4800 to perfect a valve design for the intake on the left side of the heart.

USC Plans Classes in Local Area

Two courses in elementary education and one in psychology will be offered by the University of Southern California in the Torrance area this fall.

Miss Janice Richards, coordinator for the Los Angeles City Schools, will teach "Workshop in Elementary Education," a two-unit course beginning Thursday, Sept. 21, from 4-6 p.m. in the education materials building, 2335 Plaza Del Amo, in the conference room.

"Laboratory Seminar in Elementary School Art" will meet Mondays, from 4 to 6 p.m., beginning Sept. 25 in the Fern Ave. School cafeteria, 1314 Fern Ave. The two-unit course will be under the direction of Dr. Vincent Lanier, associate professor education and fine arts at USC.

BEGINNING Sept. 21, Dr. Frank Risch, clinical psychologist with the Veterans Administration, will teach "Survey of Clinical Psychology," a three-unit course, at Harbor General hospital, 1124 W. Carson St., in the auditorium. Classes will meet on Thursdays from 7 to 10 p.m.

Registration and tuition payment will be at the first class meeting. The deferred tuition plan is open to students who wish to pay their tuition in installments. One-third of the total tuition, plus \$5, is due at registration; two additional payments, each for a third of the tuition, are to be made during the semester.

GI, KOREAN, and California veterans must present proper credentials. California state veterans must present or have on file an authorization certificate issued for USC for the fall semester, 1961.

Further information may be obtained by writing to the Community Service Division, University of Southern California, University Park, Los Angeles 7, or by calling RI 8-2311, station 246.

valve is relatively light. It can be repaired by surgery, with the patient's own tissues. If there is serious stiffening of the valve flaps, however, the patient must have a total replacement to survive.

THE MOST serious valve problems occur on the left side of the heart that pumps the blood to the general circulation under strong pressure. A number of artificial valves have been recently designed and are now in use as replacement for the aortic valve which lets the blood out of the pumping chamber.

At present, however, there is only one design for an intake valve that lets the blood into the left ventricle, a ball-in-a-cage arrangement that is workable but cumbersome. Dr. Smith and his associates are experimenting with a simplified valve construction.

BEFORE SETTING to work on the research project, Dr. Smith and his associates did a survey of experience reported in medical and scientific journals with artificial valves. They found that some investigators had tried to duplicate the natural valve, including the cords attached to the inner wall of the pumping chamber that keep the natural valve cusps from buckling. In an artificial valve, however, the cords tend to pull out.

Other investigators had tried a simple flap valve, hinged at one side. The hinge, however, wore out under the constant stress of the blood flow. Still other valves, once they were set in the hearts of experimental animals, were found to have minute pockets where the valve was attached to the heart tissue, which allowed for the formation of dangerous blood clots.

IN VIEW of this experience by other medical scientists, Dr. Smith and his associates are working on designs made of semi-stiff tygon plastic which have no cords or hinges, and which cover the stitch line with a smooth surface on which clots will not form.

Once the investigators get the design perfected, it will be tested on experimental animals to assure its durability and safety.

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