NEW HOPE . . . Dr. Steve Chi Kong, Liu, director of the cardiopulmonary laboratory at Harbor General Hospital, and Dr. D. DeCristofaro, fellow in cardiology, check a heart patient to determine changes in the magnitude of pulsations in the arteries. Dr. Liu feels heart patients have a better chance to live normal lives today because researchers are learning more and more about heart diseases.

Research Improves Knowledge of Heart

The next few years will be ones of increased hope and help for area heart patients at Harbor General Hospital, according to Dr. Steve Chi Kong Liu, heart specialist at the hospital.

Dr. Liu, director of the cardiopulmonary laboratory at Harbor General Hospital, disclosed that the establishment of a coronary care unit for heart victims at the hospital is "fast becoming a reality. We expect to have a six-bed coronary unit in operation very soon," he said.

Professional education chairmon of the Los Angeles County Heart Association's Southwestern branch, Dr. Liu explained that Harbor General is joining other hospitals throughout the county and nation in providing the latest "up-to-date" help to heart victims who must leap over the often-fatal obstacles caused by a sudden heart attack or stroke.

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HE EXPLAINED that the local hospital presently provides three to four beds for heart patients in its eight-bed intensive care unit. "But an ideal place is needed for heart patients who urgently require special monitoring equipment, peace and quiet, plus intensive care from hospital personnel."

Dr. Liu, a leading authority on cardiovascular disorders and the author of more than 42 heart research articles, explained that in the last few years, more ideas and methods are giving heart victims a greater chance to survive the cripplers that took more than a million American lives last year.

"We are developing and practicing newer methods of monitoring, implantation of artificial valves and heart parts, we are discovering more facts about the cause of heart and circulatory disorders. We are learning more about the heart because of various research programs and investigations of heart specialists throughout the nation."

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TODAY MORE information and ideas are needed about the heart's mechanical functions to answer questions on how the heart muscle actually works, what specifically causes various blood pressures: why heart valves sometimes fail to work and more information about the not-yet-solved mysteries of the heart and blood systems, Dr. Liu said.

A good example of these mysteries, he added, regrads knowledge about the viral infections of the heart. More and more evidence show that the heart degenerates through certain viral invasions of the heart muscles.

Researchers have discovered that German Measles (Rubela) is a large factor in this childhood disease. But besides rheumatic fever, researchers are learning that congenital heart problems, the cripplers and killers of so many children, are influenced and caused by viral invasions in the heart.

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THE HEART doctor, originally educated in Nanking and Canton, leaving China after the Communist upheaval, explained that besides learning about the causes of many heart disorders, we are learning more about the preventions of these problems.

"We all know that excess in living develops poor heart health. Research discovered that extreme or lack of exercise; overeating; excess stress and tension; high cholesteral (or fatty) intake; smoking and general neglect of your body all are factors in heart disorders."

One excellent heart health habit, Dr. Liu said, is exercising in order to build up heart muscles and blood vessels, he commented, we at Harbor General recommend that coronary heart patients should exercise frequently, 50 to 75 of their strength capacity. In fact, he quickly added, everyone should have the exercise habit.

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THE CARDIOLOGIST again reminded that there is increased hope and help for heart patients, but more aid is needed from everyone to completely overcome these national health cripplers.

He explained that more can be learned about the heart through the Heart Association's public education programs of films, speakers and literature.

But more facts can be learned about the heart by people becoming Heart volunteers at the Southwestern Branch office, 16611 Hawthorne Blvd.

Two Special Programs To Help Vietnam Vets

The Veterans Administration reported today two special programs available to servicemen in Vietnam and to hospitalized servicemen in the United States.

William J. Driver, administrator of Veterans Affairs, said, "We expect thousands of young men who served in Vietnam to be in school or college this fall because of this program."

Driver states that many Vietnam servicemen are discharged immediately when they reach the United States, rather than at a centralized separation center. A new plan of counseling provides full benefits that are available to them as veterans.

TO HELP carry out President Johnson's wish to help fighting men make a speedy adjustment to civilian life, Driver has sent VA representatives to Vietnam to assist men ready for discharge.

"I am glad to report," he said, "that American servicemen responded enthusiastically and I have made this program a regular part of VA operations.

"The first two-man VA team sent to Vietnam and the five counselors we now have at Long Binh, Cam Ranh Bay, and Pleiku were selected from a large number of volunteers because of long experience," he said. "They are men who have known combat in earlier wars. Two of them are Medal of Honor winners."

AT THE end of the first five months, VA representatives have counseled more than 50,000 men.

"Based on reports by VA representatives and my personal visit to Vietnam, I feel this program is making a significant contribution in speeding up the soldier's transition to civilian life," Driver said. "I believe the program can be expanded and I have notified the Department of Defense that we are willing to send additional VA representatives to advise personnel who have completed their tours of combat."

Men disabled in service have a variety of special benefits available to them and last fall Driver initiated a plan for VA officials to go into military hospitals in the United States to acquaint these men with their rights, assist them in making applications, and provide professional counseling.

Outbreak Of Flu Expected

Capitol News Service

SACRAMENTO—The State Department of Public Health has forecast there should be "substantial numbers of cases" of A2 influenza during the 1967-68 winter, primarily because incidence was relatively low during the past year.

The department said incidence of type A2 had been lower in the eastern parts of the nation and that cases might increase more in that area.

The relatively little disease caused by A2 influenza viruses in that 1966-67 season permitted the general level of susceptibility to increase," the department said, "particularly in the eastern states where the last major outbreaks of A2 influenza were observed in 1964-65.'

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ON THE other hand, the department said most areas of the U.S. had type B influenza last winter and no significant amount of that type of infection is likely to occur in the coming year.

The department said the Type B virus was identified in the southwest, particularly in California and Arizona. Excess mortality attributed to pneumonia and influenza did not reach the national "epidemic threshold" at any time and it did not remain elevated for more than a single week in any of the country's geographic divisions.

TWO INFLUENZA vaccines will be available for use in the 1967-67 year, the department said. A newly introduced bivalent vaccine, containing only contemporary A2 and B strains is for general use

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