

# New Hope for Transplant Patients

By Roy Herbert

NEW PROSPECTS for transplant surgery are opening up as a result of work being carried out by Britain's Medical Research Council (MRC). The Council's latest annual report reveals that indefinite survival of kidney grafts in animals has now been achieved.

The technique is to use "blocking antibody." Research has shown that the immune response, by which foreign materials, including transplants, are rejected, is more complicated than has been thought.

In some cases antibody which is normally produced by the body to fight the foreign material, works in reverse. It actually blocks the immune response. For example, some anti-bodies help tumour growth by preventing the blood cells that attack tumours from recognising them.

It has been found possible to increase the production of blocking anti-body. At the McIndoe Memorial Research Unit at East Grinstead, Southern England, animals have been injected with anti-body from others and no extra treatment for suppression of the immune response has been used.

## Encouraging

Results are so encouraging that the technique's clinical value is now being investigated in collaboration with the renal transplant unit at Guy's Hospital, London.

The report says the MRC is making special efforts to increase research on mental health, drug dependence, population control and arterial disease. But its total work spreads over a field ranging from cancer to trawlermen's clothing. Patterns of cancer incidence over the world may show important

clues, particularly warning of new hazards in the environment. Regional data collection centres have been set up by the MRC in Nairobi, Kingston (Jamaica), Singapore and Teheran.

It is also trying to identify populations showing unusual cancer risks. Studies are being made of cancer of the gullet, liver cancer (a major hazard in Africa), nasopharyngeal cancer and lung cancer.

The MRC's environmental physiology unit has designed new protective clothing for trawlermen. One piece and two-piece suits have been tested at sea.

## Anti-leprosy Drug

Progress has also been made on leprosy in collaboration with the Malaysian health authorities. Three years ago a screening method for drugs against leprosy was worked out by the MRC, using mice. Now this method has shown that a new antibiotic, Rifampicin, is very active against the leprosy bacterium. Trials in Kuala Lumpur have proved that it kills about twice as the standard drug, Dapsone. The results are important because Dapsone-resistant strains have begun to appear.

Dr. J.A.B. Gray, the Council's Secretary, said that an item they were very proud of was the development of diets for treating malnutrition. People suffering from protein shortage, he said, could not be cured by large doses of protein. They also needed energy. Years of work by the MRC had finally produced a basic diet which produced no distressing side-effect and had been used to save many lives in disaster areas.

(BIS)

## Deaf Child — (Contd. f. p. 73)

children can be seen in the state of temper tantrum and hyperactivities. Therefore some insight into the child's personal problems must be obtained before any suitable rehabilitation can be instituted.

### Educational Rehabilitation :

For the educational rehabilitation of the deaf and mute children we will have to evaluate their needs and potentialities, oral expression, the speech deterioration rate and the type of compensatory training regained.

### Vocational Rehabilitation :

Vocational training offers more fields to the deaf than to any other types of physically handicapped. The co-ordination of the eye and the hand is extremely good in the deaf and with proper instructions and training they become very good craftsmen and skilled workers. The vocational guidance scheme in our country is not very satisfactory. Hundreds of adult deaf who come for employment are not given opportunities. Actually the vocational placement and employment after the schooling age depends almost entirely upon the efforts of special employment exchanges for physically handicapped persons.

One of the main principles in rehabilitation of the deaf is not to segregate them. They should be assimilated to the working population. An integrated programme of educational and vocational training for the deaf can help reduce their disability so that suitable employment can be found for them. In this regard nurses can find ample opportunities to help the deaf and the mute to live a life with hope.

## RLY. CONCESSION

**The TNAI Council has decided that only nurses who are members of the Association and are in continuous membership for at least three months immediately preceeding the date of their request be issued with railway concession certificates.**

**Requests from those who do not satisfy the above requirement will not be considered.**

Secretary, TNAI

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