

Happiness Through Health

Brain Monitor Helps Diagnose Epilepsy

By Otto McClarrin

Three researchers in Cleveland have developed a compact portable device which they say is the first to permit day-long brain monitoring while a patient pursues normal activities. The package, which resembles a camera or normal tape recorder, is a sophisticated four-channel recording system which stores information in a cassette for play-back later in a medical laboratory.

Dr. John H. Ferguson, a neurologist who is one of the developers, says the abnormality present in patients with temporary disturbances may show up only a few seconds a day. A conventional

20-minute electroencephalogram (EEG) "May miss those precious seconds" but the 24-hour monitor is more likely to pick them up, Ferguson said.

Penny-sized electrodes on a patient's scalp are concealed by hair and attached to the recorder by wire. The recorder can be carried like a shoulder purse or attached to a belt. The wires can be covered by a jacket, sweaters, or other clothing.

Besides providing a means for diagnosing epilepsy in patients whose brain wave irregularity doesn't show up during

conventional EEGs, the monitor can provide a check on dosage and effectiveness of drugs, Dr. Ferguson said.

He stated that it could help determine whether psychiatric behavior disorders have some nerve-system or other physical basis. It can enable doctors to look into possible relationship of fainting episodes with abnormal brain wave action, and it can be used in connection with sleep disorders.

But Ferguson said the device is too costly for general use now, so its use is limited to special problems. He hopes to find ways to reduce the cost so its use can be more general. **DEVELOPING PERMANENT CARDIAC PACE-MAKER:**

Conventional cardiac pacemakers, which depend on batteries for their energy, some day may be replaced by a permanent model, powered by the body's own energy.

Scientists at the University of Missouri-Columbia and Massachusetts General Hospital say the new system, if perfected, would eliminate the need for repeated and often costly surgery to replace the standard artificial batteries.

The new device is expected to cost no more than a conventional pacemaker, about \$1,

500, and would weigh about half as much. Allen Hahn, a biomedical engineer at Missouri, says while the model probably won't be ready for human experimentation for another five years, animal tests have proven successful.

"I would say probably another set of long-term animal experiments is needed before human transplantation can be considered," Hahn said recently.

About 300,000 persons in the world are being kept alive today by artificial pacemakers attached to the walls of their hearts, statistics show. The vast majority of those in use require additional surgery to replace the worn out batteries.

The new device, called a Hybrid Bio Galvanic Cell, would eliminate the need for the second and sometimes third operation for battery replacement, Hahn stated.

The principle behind the new pacemaker turns the body into a human battery. Two electrodes, one zinc and the other platinum, create a chemical reaction within the body.

The platinum reacts with the body's natural chemicals, which in turn causes oxygen to move from one electrode to the other.



Hobson R. Reynolds (left), Grand Exalted Ruler of the Elks, crowned Miss Kim Renee Sims of Milwaukee, Wisconsin "Miss America of Elksdom" for 1976 at the organization's annual talent and beauty pageant held recently in Miami, Florida. Miss Angela Bridges (second from left), "Miss America of Elksdom" for 1975 congratulated Miss Sims on winning this year's title. Reddick Martin, (right), Marketing Manager, Coca-Cola USA, presented the winner's trophy. Coca-Cola USA sponsored the pageant awards and made a \$1500 contribution to the Elks beauty and talent scholarship fund.

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Revolutionary Program Helps Clean House

A revolutionary program to help Charlotte area donors make a clean sweep of house cleaning and help the city's handicapped at the same time was announced today by John Craig, Jr., Chairman of the Board of Goodwill Industries of Charlotte, Inc.

The new system for collection of usable discards, called an "Attended Collection Center," is the first of its kind in Charlotte and Western North Carolina. Attended collection centers will eventually replace all Goodwill deposit boxes, providing the new system proves to be successful.

"We believe the new centers will be a vast improvement over the deposit box system," said Mr. Craig. "They will provide a more efficient system of getting quality discards to the handicapped workers at Goodwill, and make it easier for the donors to make donations."

An attractive 40-foot trailer with the "Smilong G" of Goodwill on the sides will be the landmark of the new centers. The centers will be manned by workers of Goodwill. They will be open seven days a week: Monday through Saturday from 10 a.m. until 8 p.m. and Sunday from 1 p.m. until 6 p.m.

The smiling attendants will issue tax receipts for all donations. Because Goodwill is a non-profit, charitable organization, the tax receipt may be used to deduct the donation from Federal Income Taxes.

Since all of the old blue and yellow Goodwill deposit boxes will be removed from areas where the new Attended Collection Centers will be located, Goodwill asks that donors patronize the new center instead.

The first of these centers, at Tryon Mall Shopping Center, will begin operation October 4. Mr. Frank Watson, III, of North American Van Lines, which is furnishing the first trailer, will attend opening ceremonies at 10 a.m. on October 4th. Also attending will be officials of Goodwill Industries. The public is cordially invited.

Goodwill, a non-profit organization and United Way Agency, provides employment, wages and training for physically, mentally and socially handicapped persons. Goodwill relies on the sale of refurbished, donated material from the community for its operating income.

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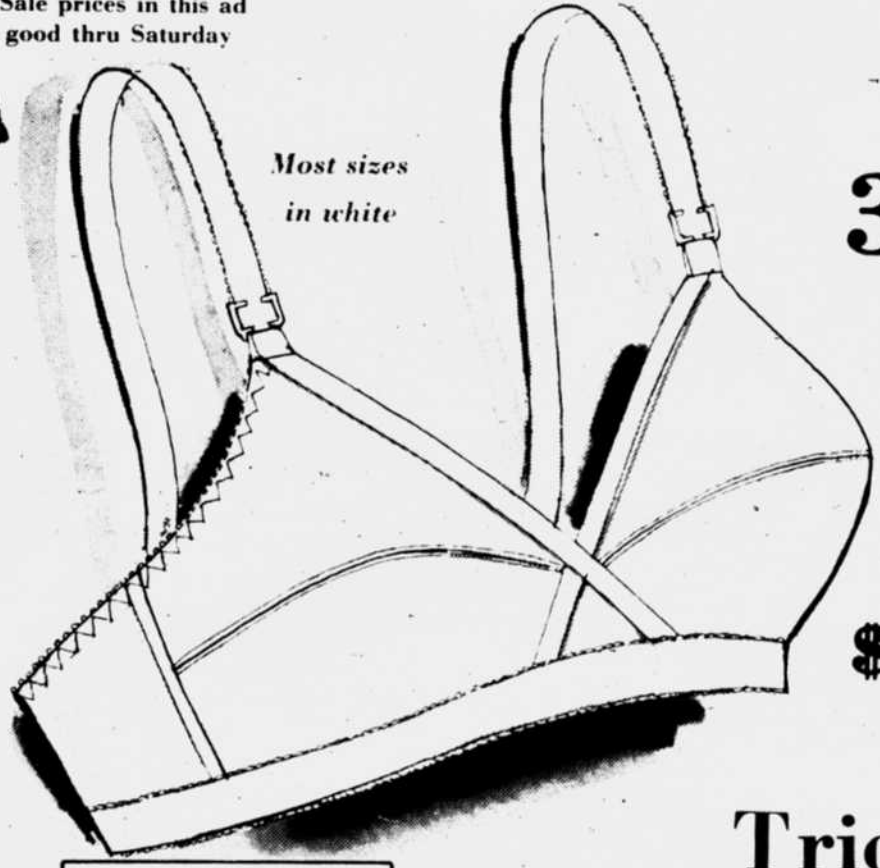
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