

New uses found for acupuncture

By ROSE WEBER
Acupuncture has a definite place in medicine as a means of pain relief and research is under way to discover new areas of use.
Dr. Calvin H. Chen, M.D. used slides of operations being performed with acupuncture as the only means of anesthesia to illustrate his talk at the Sinai Women's Guild spring meeting.
Dr. Chen is assistant medical superintendent of Northville State Hospital and clinical associate professor of psychiatry at Wayne State University.
"I became interested in the method after James Reston's visit to China in 1971. In 1972, the hospital began research with the gate control theory," said Dr. Chen.



Mrs. Walter Field (left) shares medical news with Dr. Calvin Chen and Mrs. David Dunskey.

THE GATE control theory uses puncture points in the spinal cord and thalamus areas to control pain. Feelings of numbness, tingling, heaviness and swelling are used as non-pain symptoms.
"Acupuncture does not work in every case. But in 72 per cent of those cases which had exhausted all methods except narcotic use it was successful," the doctor said.
Some additional uses other than pain relief being researched are withdrawal of drug addiction through acupuncture ear points and treatment of mental illness.
"There has been a 98 per cent success rate in the treatment of schizophrenia when acupuncture is used in conjunction with drugs and group therapy," he said.
DR. CHEN believes that more doctors are beginning to accept the more

than 5,000 year old method of treatment.
"We are always skeptical of methodology that can not be proven. But research is turning up enough successful pain relief cases that even doctors in China are beginning to believe," he said.
He believes that dramatic relief from pain in cases of arthritis, bur-

sitis, tendonitis, spinal disc dislocation and even whiplash is possible.
"However, more research is necessary before we can make a positive statement," the doctor said.
MANY OF the guild members crowded around the speakers table following Dr. Chen's talk seeking additional information.
A fashion show of women's clothing

was presented during the luncheon at the Raleigh House in Southfield.
The short business meeting included installation of officers and board members for the 1974-75 year.
Mrs. Philip Krawitz, gift shop chairman, presented a check for \$16,000 to Dr. Julien Priver, executive vice-president of Sinai Hospital.
The guild contribution brings their 21 year total to \$128,000.

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Crises affect mental health

The energy crisis has caused major changes in the American way of life and added stresses that could affect the mental health of millions.

Our total environment and all the conditions under which we live — including economic, social and personal factors — have definite bearing upon the state of one's mental as well as physical health.

Research has shown that mental health in the United States, as statistically measured by mental hospital admissions, improves or deteriorates according to the state of the economy.

IN NEW YORK, for example, number of admissions to mental institutions rises in a predictable fashion with the unemployment rate.

Dr. M. Harvey Brenner of the Johns Hopkins University School of Hygiene and Mental Health has studied the nation's economic health and mental hospital admissions from 1922 to 1972.

"When the economy is up, admissions to mental hospitals are down," he said. "When the economy is down, admissions to mental hospitals soar."

WILL THE American people experience the energy crisis as

something like wartime emergency privations, or as the hardships of an economic recession — whether or not there actually is one?

The U.S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare issued a statement predicting effects of the energy shortage on health. It included this comment:

"Experts are of the opinion that behavior of the American public

during the present energy crisis will follow the model of economic recession rather than wartime emergency privations."

"UNEMPLOYMENT, worry and the various extra stresses caused by the energy crisis may trigger underlying mental illnesses and reinforce tendencies to emotional instability and disorders.

"We can best cope with this problem through public education in the causes and prevention of mental illness and the promotion of positive mental health.

"If we face the realities of our situation squarely and gird ourselves for a somewhat more Spartan way of life, perhaps we can use current adversities to strengthen our mental health."

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