

~~Sunday Times~~ 26:4:59
**Big Advance
in Brain
Surgery**

By A Sunday Times Reporter

SURGERY has made the first big advance in the treatment of hydrocephalus—water on the brain—after hundreds of years in which this has defied all attempts to understand it.

Making this claim yesterday, Mr. G. H. MacNab, consultant surgeon to both the Westminster and the Great Ormond Street Children's Hospitals, said he had operated on 60 children in the last year. He had had complete success, as far as could be seen, in 48 cases.

Mr. MacNab told the annual convention of the National Society for Mentally Handicapped Children in Church House, Westminster, that hydrocephalus, caused by the mounting pressure of cerebro-spinal fluid in the brain, had until recently been thought almost inoperable.

The secret of the new operation was a small silicone valve invented by a Philadelphia neuro-surgeon, Dr. Spitz, and an engineer, Mr. Holter. Mr. Holter's son developed hydrocephalus and Dr. Spitz tried three different types of operation without success.

Finally he produced the valve, which he had invented some years before, saying it was not very dependable but was the only thing left to try. Mr. Holter examined the valve with an engineer's eye and said that he could improve it. The improved valve, which drains fluid at a gentle rate from around the brain and leads it into the large vein near the heart, was tried and proved successful.

Mr. Walker-Smith, Minister of Health, told the convention that after the new Mental Health Bill was passed he would make it a duty for local authorities to provide services for the mentally disordered. "Although the Bill allows for an expansion of local services, the expansion need not wait until the Bill is passed. I intend to inform local authorities of this."

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OAKLANDS

FINNEY LANE,

HEALD GREEN,

CHESHIRE.

26
4
59

Herewith as promised
on the phone this
most heartening
account taken from
the Sunday Times
of the success for
the treatment of
hydrocephalus.

Love to Peggy

as ever

Jim