Symposium on Rehabilitation in Cardiovascular Disease

Introduction

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The development of the methods and the basic principles of rehabilitation as they pertain to persons with cardiovascular disease has lagged far behind the progress made in those with war injuries, accidents, orthopedic problems and tubercular infection. The physician uses his art in an attempt to rehabilitate the specific patient, but unless there is an unusual or striking necessity, a large majority of the patients do not benefit by this type of counsel and direction. When one becomes interested in the over-all problem of rehabilitation, at first there develops a feeling of frustration, because of the many facets, some of which appear to be opposed to each other.

The object of this symposium is to present various lay and professional opinions. It has brought out agreement amongst the authors on certain basic ideas. It has also called attention to the controversial opinions that need further exploration and discussion.

Recovery and Rehabilitation Following Coronary Occlusion

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As time has passed, the serious outlook for surviving an acute attack of coronary occlusion, or for recovering sufficiently to lead a useful life subsequently, is giving way to increasing optimism and to a movement toward encouraging the patient to return to work. This view has been expressed by Master and Jaffe in a series of papers over the past two decades,1-4 and other authors have published similar reports.5-11 The im-

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