

Pregnancy Cures Certain Diseases

Doctors may not yet prescribe pregnancy as a miracle treatment for certain hard-to-cure diseases, but evidence continues to mount that a pregnant woman is immune to certain ailments which the non-pregnant must endure.

MEDICAL science reports that pregnancy may improve peptic ulcers, migraine headache and arthritis, a painful and often crippling disease that afflicts an estimated nine million Americans.

Sometime ago, medical researchers discovered that some chemical in a pregnant woman's body, probably a hormone, was capable of controlling arthritis, but this week the head of the arthritis clinic of Chicago's Cook County Hospital reported that his institution is treating arthritis sufferers by injecting them with an extract

from placenta, the envelope of membranes that surrounds and cushions the unborn child.

Dr. Eugene F. Traut, reported to the American Medical Association convention at Chicago, that "of 42 patients with mild to degenerative arthritis, 34 improved." He said 24 of 27 persons suffering from rheumatoid arthritis, a different type, "experienced a marked remission."

THE PLACENTAL extract treatment aided a few others with rarer forms of arthritis, he said. "Patients have enthusiastically claimed more strength and sense of well-being since being given the extract," he added.

The Chicago doctor explained that the treatment, which had been tried in Russia 30 years ago and discarded, is still experimental. Why the extracts aids arthritis remains a mystery, he said.