

City News

Tuesday, Nov. 7, 1961

A-15

Surgeons Aid Ailing Minds

A Nashville plastic surgeon declared here Tuesday that many persons seeking cosmetic surgery are helped not only in the aesthetic sense—the operations often aid in unraveling a maze of psychological problems.

"We know from experience that persons desiring cosmetic surgery for defects whether big or small are likely to be suffering from

mental conflicts," said Dr. Robert A. G. Ricketson.

He told the section on plastic and reconstruction surgery of the Southern Medical Association meeting here that such surgery shouldn't be done in all cases.

HOW TO JUDGE

It must be decided whether the desired anatomical alteration can be accomplished, said Dr. Ricketson, whether the final results will be what the patient expects, and whether it will alleviate his psychological disturbances.

In advisable cases Dr. Ricketson said that such surgery can make life much more worth living for many people.

He included those with noses unsightly to themselves or to others, flop ears, buck teeth and similar ailments.

Dr. Robert F. Hagerty of Charleston, S.C., praised the affects achieved through such surgery but pointed out in his address as chairman of the sectional meeting that only a small portion of plastic surgery is cosmetic in nature.

Most of the time plastic surgeons spend, said Dr. Hagerty, is in correcting the consequences of trauma such as that resulting from burns, face and jaw injuries and accidents with extensive loss of skin and tissues.

CASE CITED

Dr. Ricketson warned against cosmetic surgery for those who

See SURGEON on Page 20

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Continued From Page 15

are desiring to change themselves for others or persons with a marked degree of psychosis.

He described a young Army officer who launched an extensive self-improvement course because of incessant criticisms from his estranged wife and mother-in-law about his nose, buck teeth, poor English and sloppy dress.

"The Army officer probably will not succeed with this program and will not be happy with the result of his cosmetic surgery," Dr. Ricketson commented.