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**SCIENTIFIC PROGRESS, THE UNIVERSITIES AND THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT**—President's Science Advisory Committee, G. B. Kistiakowsky, Chmn.—White House (GPO), 33 p., paper, 15¢. Presents specific conclusions and recommendations.

**SOLID STATE PHYSICS; Advances in Research and Application, Vol. II**—Frederick Seitz and David Turnbull, Eds.—Academic, 438 p., illus., \$12.50. Articles on semiconductor behavior, physics at high pressure and cyclotron resonance.

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• Science News Letter, 79:28 January 14, 1961

#### SURGERY

### Plastic Surgery Helps Morale of Worriers

➤ A MAN WORRIED over his bat-ears and a girl concerned over her undeveloped breasts were made normal by plastic surgery, it is reported in the British Medical Journal, Dec. 17, 1960. Both had been diagnosed as mentally ill.

Drs. David Stafford-Clark and Patrick Clarkson of Guy's Hospital, London, collaborated on research concerning the "surgery of appearance." They found that patients should be carefully selected for operations involving combined plastic and psychiatric treatment.

Plastic surgeons and psychiatrists share a joint awareness, the scientists said, of the close relationship linking "facial appearance, bodily proportion, and the overall function and structure of human beings to their morale and personal identification."

The scientists emphasized that combined psychiatric and surgical appraisal must be made of cases applying for plastic surgery. Surgery should never be undertaken for psychotic patients during periods of acute upsets. Three factors should be considered:

1. The degree of reasonable success to be expected from a technical standpoint.
2. The extent to which the patient is capable of a realistic appreciation of the risks, and is affected by the state he is in.
3. The patients' capacity to tolerate failure of plastic surgery, as assessed by psychiatric examination and rapport.

Both suicidal attempts and assaults on the plastic surgeon have occurred after plastic operations that are unsatisfactory.

• Science News Letter, 79:29 January 14, 1961

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