

with pulmonary insufficiency. It is also of interest that the mortality from cirrhosis of the liver in obese males is 249 percent of the expected.

Medicoactuarial statistics make it quite clear that the obese do not live as long as the lean. The chief causes of death among overweight individuals are cardiovascular-renal diseases, diabetes, and disorders of the liver and biliary tract. The burden of obesity is not borne equally among all segments of society. In the United States, it is more likely to be found in the lower socio-economic strata; this association is particularly marked in poor women and to a lesser extent in middle class males.

Again, I would emphasize the statistical importance of obesity in our population and the strong need for and potential benefits of systematic preventive action beginning in early childhood.

ANORECTIC DRUGS

The successful treatment of obesity requires only one essential therapeutic measure -- that the patient take in fewer calories than he or she needs for a given level of exercise so that the stored fat in the body is gradually lost as it is burned as body fuel. All supportive