

THE DOCTOR AND THE PATIENT—Doctor C. M. Couves (above, left) of the U of A Hospital cardiac surgery unit performed the operation. The patient (above) sits up in hospital four days after his operation. The remains of the diseased section of aorta is discarded (below).

the University of Alberta

...problem right in the middle of the operation. Dr. Couves was faced with two alternatives—removing the entire aorta and inserting an artificial one, or repairing the old one. He had expected to substitute, but discovered the original to show promise for recovery.

The entire operation is made possible by the heart-lung machine, which permitted the heart to lie still during the operation.

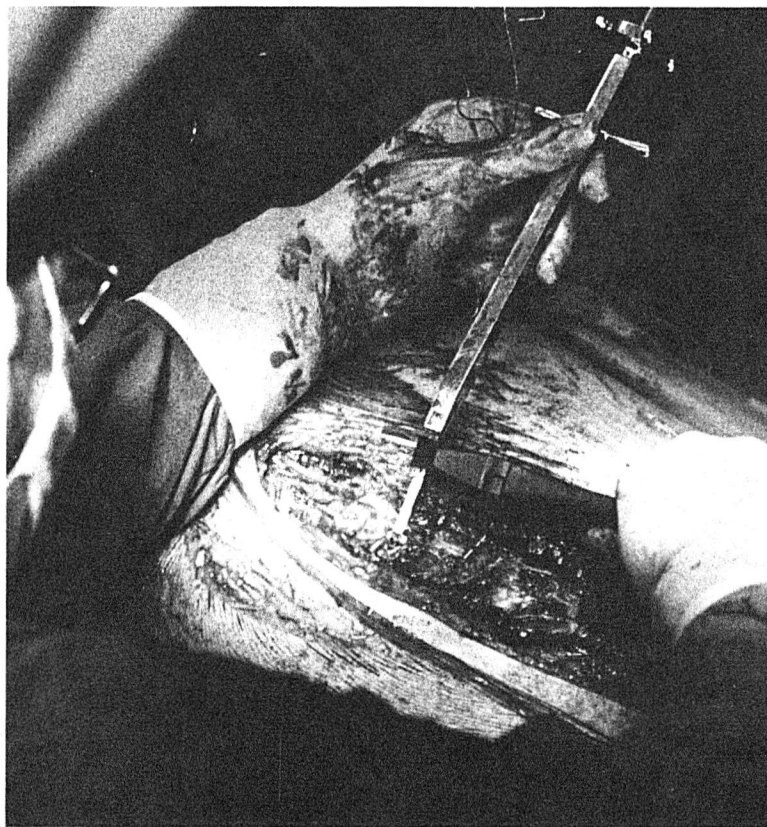
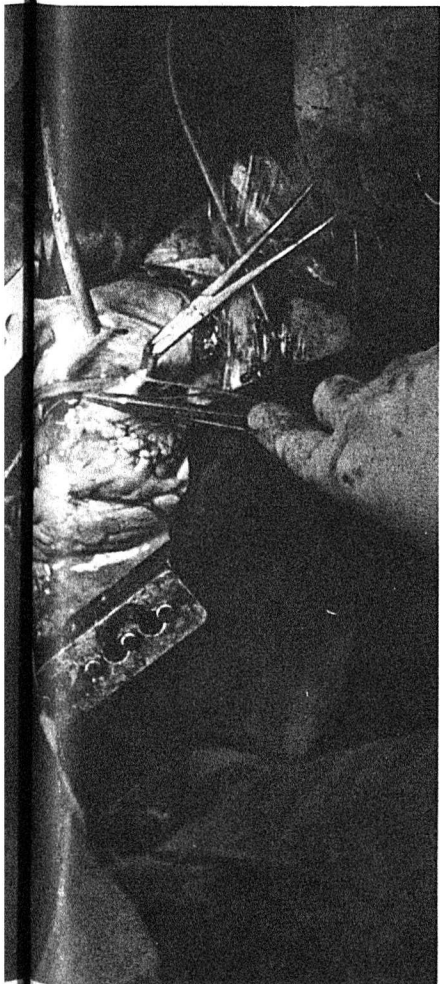
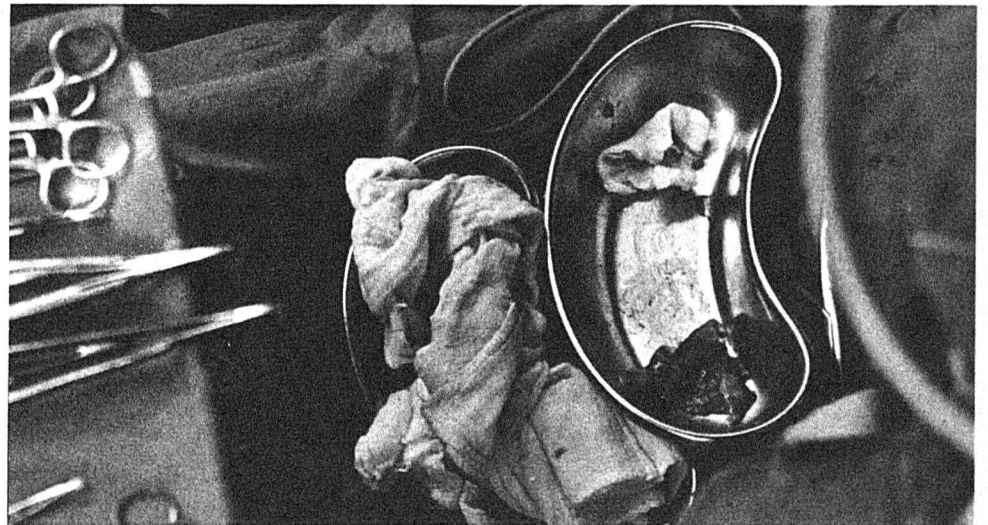
Blood is passed from the heart through the heart-lung where it is cleaned and re-oxygenated and then returned into an

artery in the right groin. Diverting the blood deflates the heart.

After the work on the heart was completed, Dr. Couves left and had the assisting surgeon close the incision. He inserted a stainless steel strap through both parts of the breast bone and drew it together.

Dr. Couves expected the patient to be walking a week after the operation and to leave for home a couple of weeks later.

photos by Iyall and Barr



THE OPERATION IS OVER (above) and the patient's sternum is "sewn" or "strapped" together again. The team of surgeons who performed the operation can be seen in the operating theatre (right).

