Heart Disease Responsible for Half of Deaths in United States

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By ROY O. GILBERT, M.D. County Health Officer Cardiovascular disease, the throughout the nation are af-forme given to diseases of the filtered with these disorders. heart and blood vessels, was and nearly 500,000 of them are circ responsible for 51.6 per cent of elementary or high school chil. aft all deaths in the United States d'ern. As in so many things, one in the year 1953, while in Los this inc't as bad as it first ap-formed and the states dears since many cases may you

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now be cured, prevented, or disease is listed as the leading lived with in reasonable com- cause of death. lived with in reasonable con-fort. <u>More people are dying of</u> Disorders of the heart and heart and blood vessel disease circulation are more often fatal loday because a greater num-after the age of 45 and cause ber of them are living much one out of every two deaths; longer. Coronary heart dis-indeed, after the relatively case, the result of hardening young age of 40 cardiovascular and narrowing of the arteries

Some heart trouble is un-avoidable. A small proportion, of children (the estimated num-ber is 323 in every 1000 live births) are born with defec-live hearts, a condition that is called congenital heart disease. This condition sinot inheritad and the causes are, as, yet, un-known.

much of the heart trouble in children and is responsible for approximately one-hird of the cases of heart disease, in adults. Hypertensive heart disease, caused by austained high blood pressure, is also a disorder that seems to develop later in life. The origin of the disorder re-Other forms of heart diseas

of the heart, would occur in may be the result of a strepto-every individual if he but lived coccal infection. Rheumatic fe-long enough. Some heart trouble is un-much of the heart trouble in lation will probably develop an much of the heart trouble in lation will probably develop an much of the heart trouble in lation will probably develop an heart disease will elevated blood pressure as they ease into middle age. Although much remains to be

done, treatment for l ease is rapidly becom effective. Formerly hopeless, many types

Leaflets on heart disease will be malled to anyone who hends a card of request to the Los Angeles County Frealth Depart-ment, 241 No. Figueroa St. Los Angeles 12. jin much remains to be actiment for heart dissimiliaria and the second s

