

REPORTED FROM ABROAD*

LIMB TRANSPLANTATION: A SKEPTIC'S VIEW

Dr. Rolf Dederich, Director of the Orthopaedic Department of the St. Petrus Hospital in Bonn, expressed skepticism over press reports of successful reattachment of severed limbs in an article that appeared in *Orthopädie Technik*, January 1963. He stated that there was not the slightest reason to believe that transplantation of extremities from cadavers to amputees could succeed. Although Dr. Dederich acknowledged the possibility of reattaching a severed limb, he asserted that under no circumstances could previous function be restored. He also pointed out that since even skin homografts between parents and children and between siblings (nontwin) were rejected, there was little likelihood of a whole part, such as a finger, not incurring far greater difficulties. In Dr. Dederich's opinion, press reports of reattached limbs succeeded only in arousing false hopes in too many amputees throughout the world.

*Based chiefly on translations by Dr. Gabriel Rosenkranz, Medical Consultant to the VA Prosthetics Center.

<http://www.rehab.research.va.gov/jour/64/1/2/177.pdf>

