

The Wonder of Karaya—

VA Discovers Cure for Ulcers

A Veterans Administration nurse has discovered a cure for skin ulcers, or "bed sores," by combining the skills learned as a nurse and a housewife.

Gladys C. Wallace, of the Louisville, Ky., VA Hospital, had tried every recognized method of dealing with a gunshot wound in the abdomen of a 21-year-old Vietnam veteran paraplegic.

When the wound refused to heal despite the best of care, she sprinkled him liberally with karaya vegetable gum powder and wrapped him in a well known plastic kitchen wrap. Healing started the next day and was complete within a week.

A surgeon and Mrs. Wallace then treated the young veteran's leg ulcers and a deep ulcer over his spinal cord with karaya gum in the form of rings. All healed. He has gained 60 pounds and is active and happy.

The hospital has since used karaya vegetable gum and powder for more than 100 patients including paraplegics and quadriplegics with decubitus ulcers, amputees with infected leg stumps, and diabetics.

The average times for complete healing have been 7 days for the more superficial ulcers and widely affected skin areas, 14 days for ulcers extending down to the muscle, and 75

days for wounds involving muscle.

The karaya treatment is now being used in other hospitals in Kentucky, with results comparable to those at the VA hospital. No untoward effects or complications have been reported.

The Louisville VA hospital has undergone a deluge of re-

quests for information on the treatment from medical and nursing professionals both in the U.S. and foreign countries.

Describing the therapy in an article in the June issue of the American Journal of Nursing, Mrs. Wallace says no single reported method for treatment of chronic skin ulcers has proved as successful as this one.