

PARIS CHEMIST GETS CRYSTALS OF VITAMIN

Vitamin "C", the preventive of scurvy, has been obtained for the first time concentrated into crystalline form, by N. Bezssonoff, a paris biochemist. M. Bezssonoff obtained his product by the concentration of a large quantity of the juice of cabbages, which vegetables have long been recognized as effective in the prevention of scurvy. After the final treatment he had a quantity of colorless, needle shaped crystals that had the same effect in the prevention and cure of the disease as is shown by fresh fruits and vegetables, even when given in the minutest amounts. Scurvy could be prevented in rats, his test animals, by daily doses as small as two milligrams, or less than one one-hundred thousandth of an ounce. Chemical analysis of the crystals showed them to belong to the hydrocarbon group of organic substances; the compound has been given the technical name of "phenolic anthracene quinone".

Scurvy, the disease for which vitamin "C" is the preventive, used to be a terrible scourge in the old days of sailing ships, when men went on long voyages without adequate supplies of fresh vegetables. It manifested itself in general weakness and debility, distressing skin troubles, and the loosening and dropping out of the teeth. Its cure was discovered before its cause was discovered, simply because its cause consisted only in the absence of its cure. Its cause, as is now well known, is the absence of a certain definite food factor, called vitamin "C", and the supplying of vegetables and fruits that contain the vitamin prevents its development and also stops it where it has started. The isolation of this vitamin in pure form as crystals is M. Bezssonoff's contribution to the triumph of science over this disease.

DEADLY TSETSE FLY FOUND IN COLORADO

The tsetse fly, which in Africa carries the germ of sleeping sickness deadly to men and cattle, has been found in Colorado.

But there is no cause for alarm, for the flies have been dead and buried for one or two millions of years and are now known only by their fossil remains preserved in rock deposits near the foot of Pike's Peak.

Strange to say, fossil hunting expeditions under the direction of Prof. T.D.A. Cockerell of the University of Colorado have been unable to find evidence that house flies, stable flies or blue-bottle flies plagued the early mammals, including ancestors of the horse, that lived in Colorado in those ancient times.

But four species of tsetse flies have been found although they are representatives of a genus no longer existing in the western hemisphere. It may be that tsetse flies spread disease in Colorado in Miocene times just as they now do in Africa.

"We may therefore be thankful that they have all perished in our country," Prof. Cockerell remarks, "though why they found Colorado was not the place to live no one knows."