Hog Stomach New Anemia Remedy

Therapeutics

Dried stomachs of hogs are soon to vie with livers as the saviors of sufferers from pernicious anemia. This newest anemia remedy, made from one of the few unused parts of hogs, has just been developed and announced by Drs. Cyrus C. Sturgis and Raphael Isaacs of the Simpson Memorial Institute for Medical Research of the University of Michigan, and Dr. Elwood A. Sharp of the Department of Experimental Medicine of Parke, Davis and Co.

An ounce of extract from the dried, ground stomachs of hogs is as effective a remedy in pernicious anemia as a pound of raw liver or three ounces of the most concentrated liver extract yet made.

This is the latest step in the conquest of a disease, pernicious anemia, which a few years ago was in the category of the unvanquished ills of mankind. In 1926 it was found that by feeding liver to anemia patients their red blood corpuscles could be increased. Liver, once the poor man's meat, increased in price rapidly. Then the active principle in liver was extracted so that anemia patients could take small doses of the extract instead of eating large quantities of the liver itself. Now comes the new and cheaper source of the anti-anemia principle.

The new extract from hog stomach is not yet commercially available. But it will be far cheaper than liver or the costly liver extracts on which pernicious anemia patients until now have been dependent. Hogs' stomachs are largely a waste product, finding only slight use in the production of pepsin. The dried extract is practically tasteless and looks something like sawdust particles. Beef stomach and ox stomach are sold as tripe, which is a familiar food to many. Hog stomach, which has a different structure, is ground and dried to make the new remedy.

An immediate increase in the number of red blood cells took place when this dried hog's stomach was fed to patients suffering from pernicious anemia. The increase was even greater than that following liver treatment.

The new remedy was partly inspired by the work of a British scientist, Dr. W. B. Castle. In pernicious anemia the red blood cells fail to mature properly. Dr. Castle demonstrated that the stomach of normal persons secretes a substance which could develop a blood-maturing principle from meat. Consideration of this led the University of Michigan scientists, Drs. Cyrus C. Sturgis and Raphael Isaacs, to test the effect of stomach tissue itself.

Working on much the same theory, Dr. Elwood A. Sharp of the Department of Experimental Medicine, Parke, Davis & Co., arrived at a similar decision. The three scientists then developed the new remedy together.

Dr. Sharp believes it likely that liver or liver extracts supply an essential substance which is easily formed from ordinary food in the normal stomach but which is imperfectly or scantily formed in the abnormal type of stomach found in the patient suffering from pernicious anemia.

Science News-Letter, September 28, 1929

Forest Fires Cost Millions

Forestry

Reports received by the Forest Service indicate that a total of over 650,000 acres of National Forest land has been destroyed by forest fires this year in the territory west of the Mississippi. The cost to the Government for emergency fire fighting measures has amounted to $2,100,000 in the short time from July 1 to September 10. That means that more than $20 is being spent every minute in the defense fund.

The only possibility of putting out the raging flames lies in the very faint chance of rain. Weather Bureau experts here do not believe that there is much likelihood that rain will come in the near future over western Washington and Oregon where the fires are the worst. The present forecast is for an increase of wind, without rain, which condition would only aggravate the present unfavorable weather state.

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New Stone Age Village

Archæology

The site of a village dating back to the end of the New Stone Age has been discovered and excavated at Moedling, a picturesque town a half-hour's train ride from Vienna, and long a favorite haunt of artists. It stands on a low hill at a little distance from the town. Other relics of antiquity nearby date back to the Middle Ages and to a time in the Iron Age, about 700 B. C., so that the history of human settlement here now runs more or less continuously from 4000 B. C., the date of the newly-discovered village, down to the modern times represented by the town of Moedling.

Nothing much is left of the Stone Age settlement. Not even a post-hole shows where the houses were, but many blackened stones tell of hearth-fires, and fragments of pottery and broken stone and bone implements tell of housekeeping. One metal tool has been unearthed, a copper chisel.

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