

BIOCHEMISTRY

Many Female Sex Hormones May Have the Same Source

THE question whether there are many different female sex hormones, or whether there is one mother-substance giving rise to all of the recently-discovered female sex hormones, was raised as a result of reports to the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology, Drs. J. B. Collip, J. S. L. Browne and D. L. Thomson of McGill University, Montreal, described the hormone which they have obtained in pure crystalline form.

This hormone, called emmenin, they

have obtained from human placental material and also from the kidney secretions of expectant mothers. It appears to be very similar in gross chemical structure to the hormone, theelin, already reported by Dr. E. A. Doisy and associates of St. Louis University; to trihydroxyoestrin, another female sex hormone reported by Dr. Marrian of University College, London, and by Dr. Butenandt in Germany; and to a female sex hormone reported by Dr. Doehrn of Berlin. But while these substances ap-

pear to be the same chemically, they differ somewhat in the effect they have on the animal body.

Dr. Collip and his associates reported that when their emmenin is tested on baby female rats, its potency is from ten to twenty times as great as when it is tested on the usual test animal, a castrated female rat. He raised the question whether the method of testing these hormones is responsible for the different effects they are reported to produce on the body. He also asked whether one of these very hormones which are already known might not be the mother-substance, the real female sex hormone itself.

The hormone extracted by the McGill University investigators has been used to treat cases of female disorders with generally good results. It has been successful in nearly three-fourths of selected cases. Dr. Collip emphasized the fact that it should only be used in certain selected cases. For instance, it would not be suitable for disorders due to cancer or cysts.

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ZOOLOGY

Pronghorn Antelope Played At Being Hunted by Dogs

A PRONGHORN antelope doe that induced dogs to pursue her, apparently for the fun of being chased and getting away from them, was the strange pet formerly owned by L. T. Murray of Mertzon, Texas. A description of her play at being hunted has been reported to the American Society of Mammalogists through the medium of its official journal.

Brought up by hand, the little pronghorn had no companions of her own kind. She used to go out on the main street of Mertzon and entice the dogs to pursue her. Being able to outrun any of them easily, she made the game all her own, fleeing in pretended terror, pausing to encourage the dogs to take up the chase again, and finally going home when she had tired of the sport.

Her owner finally sent her to a park where there were other pronghorns, and she eventually became the mother of twin offspring.

Scientists have raised the question whether other animals, that in the wild are normally possible victims of predators, carry on this play of being hunted, as hunting animals, such as falcons and members of the cat family, often play at pursuing imaginary prey.

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