

MEDICINE

Life-Saver for "Bleeders" Found—in Egg White

Mixed With Potassium Bromide and Kept at Body Heat
Simple Substance Yields Material To Make Blood Clot

THE CURSE of the Hapsburgs has been foiled—by egg white.

The threat of death is now lifted from the heads of royalty and commoners alike who suffer under this curse, the dangerous, hereditary disease of hemophilia. These men and boys (the disease is transmitted by women but afflicts only males) need no longer lead a timid, hot-house existence for fear a scratch or slight exertion will bring on fatal bleeding.

The remedy, which could have saved the lives of kings and princes of the past, has been discovered by three University of Sheffield medical scientists, Drs. W. A. Timperley, A. E. Naish, and G. A. Clark.

Egg white thoroughly mixed with potassium bromide and kept in an incubator at body temperature for several days yields a substance which makes blood clot quickly and firmly, they report to the *Lancet*, medical journal published in London. Failure of the blood to clot at the normal rate of speed is the dangerous characteristic of hemophilia.

The new remedy cannot be called a cure, these doctors state. The cases they report, however, show it to be a promising treatment.

One of their patients was a 15-year-old boy who suffered from hemophilia

all his life. Any thoughtless lifting by him caused a painful deep swelling in the muscles of the trunk, due to internal bleeding. Walking on uneven ground brought on attacks of bleeding into the joints. He had to use crutches for years. His "baby teeth" could not be pulled for fear of fatal hemorrhage, and these were preventing the successful development of the permanent teeth.

Two hours after the first injection of the egg white preparation his blood clotted in one-half the time it took before the injection. After a number of injections he was able to walk without crutches, run about on uneven ground, and jump off chairs without any signs of hemorrhage into joints or muscles. After further injections, he was able to have the baby teeth pulled safely.

Twelve other patients have been treated with the new remedy, and all seem to have been helped. Men who could not do any work, because the least exertion caused bleeding into joints or muscles, were able to wield four-pound hammers and hold down jobs as cobblers. Others were able to have badly decayed teeth pulled in complete safety. All of them were able to lead nearly normal lives, without danger or worry over the threat of fatal bleeding.

The treatment, apparently, must be kept up and the amount of the remedy

given depends on the patient's condition. In hemophilia, the patients have "good" and "bad" periods. During the "bad" periods the slightest cut or exertion will cause dangerous bleeding. At such times they need more of the remedy. During good periods, they can get along with little or none.

Most striking effect on the clotting of the blood was observed in the case of a man whose blood clotted so slowly that it was never possible to get any measure of the clotting time. A sample of his blood was examined for 72 hours, but no signs of clotting were seen. He had the longest clotting time of any patient the Sheffield doctors had any record of. The day after the first injection of the egg white preparation, this man's blood clotted in ten minutes.

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RADIO

Medical Use of Radio Endangers Other Lives

PHYSICIANS whose business is saving lives may be unwittingly endangering other lives through the use of therapeutic equipment that interferes with radio communication.

Radio messages (*Turn to page 380*)

SAVES SOIL AND WATER

This new maze-like pattern for the landscape is not intended to hide a cherished princess from the gaze of the curious. Instead it holds the life-giving water for the crops from running off. The standing crop is wheat; the soil between has been planted to cotton. Broad-topped terraces that run around the hills hold the water and prevent sheet erosion and gully-ing. The photograph was taken in South Carolina by Orin S. Welch, staff photographer of the U. S. Soil Conservation Service.

