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BOOKS

BOOKS—the protectors of civilization's stores of accumulated knowledge—are also the torch-bearers leading the procession of research toward new scientific frontiers. In the pages of this week's SCIENCE NEWS LETTER, readers will find listed the latest offerings of those who are in the forefront of the march of research. Some are already published. Others are still on the presses and will greet you as the spring days grow warmer. The issue will serve throughout the year as a comprehensive bibliography of current works of science.

MEDICINE

New Antitoxin Promises
A Cure of Gonorrhea

A NEW antitoxin which promises to be a specific cure for one of the hush-hush diseases, gonorrhea, was reported by Dr. T. Anwyl-Davies of St. Thomas' Hospital, London, at the conference of State and Provincial Health Authorities of North America meeting at the U. S. Public Health Service.

The new antitoxin is still in the experimental stage but Dr. Anwyl-Davies' results with it seem so encouraging that it will be tried by the U. S. Public Health Service at its venereal disease clinic at the U. S. Marine Hospital, Stapleton, N. Y., Dr. R. A. Vonderlehr of the federal health service said.

Dr. Anwyl-Davies reported excellent results in about half the 157 cases treat-

ed with this antitoxin and good results in another quarter of the cases. "Cures" were effected in 36 cases which have been observed for over three months. Two of these were cured in 16 days while other cases took up to 8 weeks.

The antitoxin is equally effective in acute and chronic cases, with and without complications, the British physician reported. It differs from other anti-toxins previously tried in this disease in the way it is prepared. Instead of being made by injecting the germ of the disease, the gonococcus, directly into horses, the toxin or poison produced by the gonococcus is injected into horses and the serum of these animals used for the antitoxin.

Science News Letter, April 17, 1937

PHYSIOLOGY

New Vitamin Reported
Discovered in Hungary

A NEW vitamin, designated with the letter "P" by its Hungarian discoverers, is reported by the American Chemical Society (*Industrial and Engineering Chemistry*).

Vitamin P appears to be closely related to vitamin C and, like the better known substance, is found in lemons and paprika. Prof. A. Szent-Gyorgyi of Szeged University, Hungary, who discovered ascorbic acid, is credited with the new find.

The exact chemical nature of vitamin P is now being studied but already it appears to consist of a very large molecule containing either 81 or 83 atoms of carbon, hydrogen and oxygen. The

compound is said to decrease the permeability of cells to albumin and for this reason is supposed to have vitamin-like properties. The new substance appears to be a natural companion of vitamin C in plants.

Science News Letter, April 17, 1937

● RADIO

April 20, 5:15 p. m. E.S.T.

THE FLUID OF LIFE—Dr. William H. Howell of the Johns Hopkins University.

In the Science Service series of radio discussions led by Watson Davis, Director, over the Columbia Broadcasting System.