

that it could be applied in generous doses with soothing rather than irritating effects.

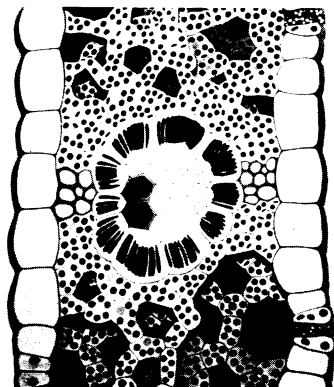
As the next tentative step, it is reported, the Department of Experimental Pathology at Temple extracted quantities of chlorophyll from green nettles, and prepared solutions and ointments suitable for a wide variety of infections. Then the medical specialists in charge of departments and clinics of the Temple University Hospital began to treat patients under carefully controlled conditions.

Announced in July

Last July the first report on the therapeutic use of chlorophyll was published in the *American Journal of Surgery*. Under these auspices, and with a score of distinguished doctors adding their own testimony, the green pigment was described as an important and effective drug. Some 1,200 cases, ranging from deep internal infections like peritonitis and brain ulcers to pyorrhea and skin disorders, had been treated and documented, and in case after case the doctors had been able to close their reports: "Discharged as cured."

People had been brought in to the hospital with bursting or infected appendices and spreading peritonitis. Appendectomies had been performed, and the task of checking the gravely dangerous infection had been left to chlorophyll. Chlorophyll solutions had been flooded into deep wounds through drainage tubes, and applied elsewhere on wet dressings or in ointments and salves.

Ulcerated varicose veins, osteomyelitis (a difficult bone disease), skin disorders,



CHLOROPHYLL

In this cross section of a corn leaf is shown where chlorophyll is found. The little black dots are the chlorophyll bodies.

and various types of infected wounds had been cured and healed. Applied in numerous cases of mouth infections, such as Vincent's angina and advanced pyorrhea, the results were immediate and positive. "The gums tightened up entirely," Dr. Homer D. Junkin commented, "and have remained clean since."

But the most spectacular results occurred in the treatment of chronic sinus infections and head colds. In 1,000 cases of respiratory infections — sinusitis, rhinitis, head colds, etc.,—treated under the supervision of Dr. Robert Ridpath and Dr. T. Carroll Davis, prominent specialists reported "there is not a single case recorded in which either improvement or cure has not taken place." Chlorophyll packs, skillfully inserted into the sinuses, it is reported, had a drying effect, cleared up congestion, and gave immediate relief. Congested head colds were cleared up within 24 hours.

How does chlorophyll affect the system? Beyond the theory that it strengthens the cells, inhibits bacterial growth, and gives the body tissues an opportu-

nity to apply their own defenses, these doctors are frank in admitting that they don't know. There is considerably more to the process than just that, they say. Its exact nature may never be understood fully. "It is possible," says one Temple pathologist, "that the bacteria, being of vegetable origin, yet possessing ordinarily no chlorophyll, undergo some biological change in the presence of the substance."

The experts who have nursed it through its laboratory period and clinical trials are enthusiastic; they freely predict its wider and more effective use by doctors.

The medical profession at large, conservative, and properly so, will study the effects of chlorophyll long and carefully before it recommends its general use. But there are increasing reports of hospitals and private practitioners who are making tests. They hope the early evidence that Nature's "green magic" heals as well as nourishes man, stands the ordeal of further trial. It is one of the most interesting lines of research on the frontiers of medicine today.

Science News Letter, March 15, 1941

PUBLIC HEALTH

Army Appoints Commissions To Fight Epidemics

THE ARMY's fight to keep epidemic diseases such as measles, influenza and meningitis out of training camps has been advanced by the appointment of five special commissions of civilian physicians to advise and aid the Army's own disease fighters.

Dr. A. J. Warren, of the Rockefeller Foundation's International Health Division, Dr. O. T. Avery, of the Hospital of the Rockefeller Institute, and Dr. Kenneth F. Maxcy, of the Johns Hopkins School of Hygiene and Public Health have been added to the main board of civilian physicians, of which Dr. Francis Blake, Yale University School of Medicine, is chairman. In addition the following have been appointed directors of special commissions:

Influenza: Dr. Thomas Francis, Jr., New York University College of Medicine.

Epidemiological Survey: Dr. S. Bayne-Jones, Yale University School of Medicine.

Measles: Dr. Joseph Stokes, Jr., Uni-

versity of Pennsylvania Medical School.

Meningitis: Dr. Perrin Long, Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine.

Neurotropic Virus Diseases (this would include infantile paralysis and encephalitis or "sleeping sickness"): Dr. John Paul, Yale University.

Appointment of directors of two other special commissions and members of the commissions is now under way.

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