

MEDICINE

Anthropologists Object to Segregation of Blood in Banks

Policy Called Unscientific Because of Lack of Any Evidence That Blood of Negroes Differs from Whites'

OPPPOSITION to the segregation of bloods from Negro and white blood donors in blood banks being collected under the auspices of the American Red Cross is expressed by the Committee on Race Relations of the American Association of Physical Anthropologists.

Members of the committee include: Dr. William K. Gregory, of the American Museum of Natural History and president of the American Association of Physical Anthropologists; Dr. Harry L. Shapiro, also of the American Museum of Natural History; Dr. Franz Weidenreich, formerly of Peking Union Medical College and now working at the American Museum of Natural History; and Dr. W. W. Greulich, of Western Reserve University School of Medicine and director of the Brush Foundation.

The committee, in a report in the current issue of the *Journal, American Medical Association* (July 4), gives three reasons for opposing the segregation of bloods.

First, it is pointed out, "There is no evidence that the blood of Negroes differs in any significant respect from that of white persons."

The objection to indiscriminate use of Negro blood because of "the somewhat higher incidence of syphilis among Negroes" is met by the explanation that preliminary tests rule out syphilis in blood accepted for the blood banks and if, in spite of this, syphilitic blood were accidentally included the germs would be killed by the procedures used in preparing and preserving the dried blood plasma or serum.

"This policy of the American Red

Cross appears even more indefensible when one considers the origins of some of the substances which are widely and effectively used in modern medical practice and which are readily accepted by the patient."

This refers to the use of preparations from animal glands for treatment of diabetes, Addison's disease and pernicious anemia, the use of blood from various animals for protective vaccines and serums and the use of sex hormone preparations from the urine of stallions and pregnant mares.

The former widespread custom among "the better circumstanced families" in the South of using Negro women as wetnurses is recalled by the committee with the comment that along with the nutritious elements of the milk the white babies certainly imbibed many of the same substances that were circulating in the blood of the Negro wetnurses.

"It is most unlikely that it did them any harm" the committee declares.

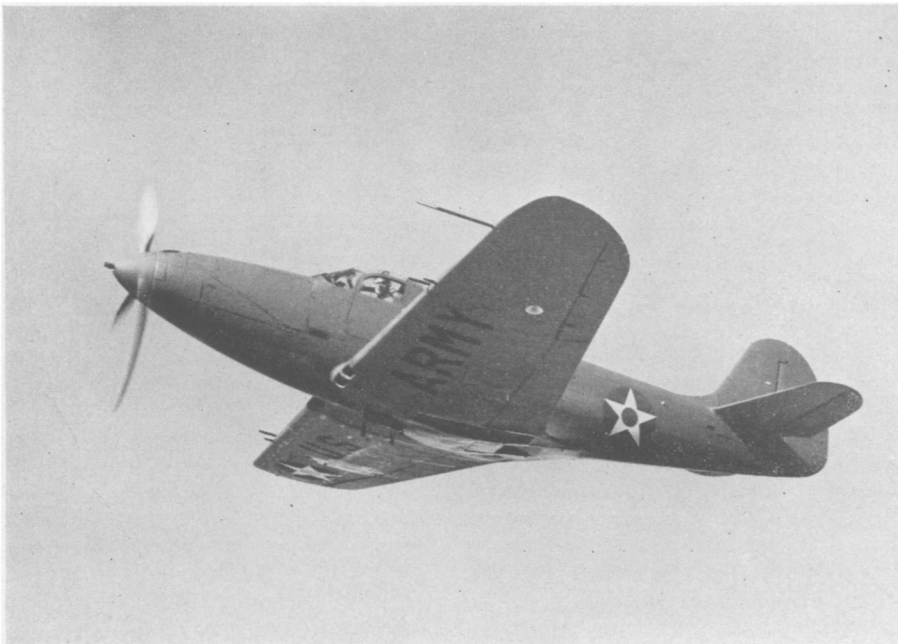
Science News Letter, July 11, 1942

A new type of *pectin* is reported to be experimentally successful in solutions of 50% sugar; present types require a 65% sugar solution.

Harpooned *swordfish* sometimes launch themselves against the dory boats manned by their captors, the attack sending the "sword" as far as 30 inches into the boat.

Between 300 and 400 tons of *herbs* are now being collected from England's hedgerows and fields, to save shipping space which the imported drugs used to occupy.

Great quantities of *cattle feed* are made from the by-product pulp and peel of citrus fruits, and a secondary by-product, the press juice, may soon be used to manufacture alcohol.



BELL AIRACOBRA

Here is a picture of the latest Army P-39—the type which has been credited by Lieutenant General H. H. Arnold with "magnificent" performance in the fighting off the Aleutian Islands. The odd-looking things hanging down beneath the wing are for the attachment of an auxiliary fuel tank for extended range.

● RADIO

Saturday, July 18, 1:30 p.m., EWT

"Adventures in Science," with Watson Davis, director of Science Service, over Columbia Broadcasting System.

Captain Ralph T. Millett, A. W. S. Officer in charge of the Ground Observer Corps, First Fighter Command, U. S. Army Air Forces, will talk about model airplanes.

Tuesday, July 14, 7:30 p.m., EWT

Science Clubs of America programs over WRUL, Boston, on 6.04, 9.70 and 11.73 megacycles.

C. Russell Mason, secretary, Massachusetts Audubon Society, will talk on "Why Do Birds Quiet Down in Summer?"

One in a series of regular periods over this short wave station to serve science clubs, particularly in the high schools, throughout the Americas. Have your science group listen in at this time.