

MEDICINE

New Vitamin Discovered

Anti-anemia member of B family may have value in disease treatment. Experiments with chicks show promise. Existence of substance has long been suspected.

► DISCOVERY of an anti-anemia vitamin which promises to be of major use in disease treatment is announced to the scientific world (*Science*, April 30).

This new substance of the vitamin B family, obtained through cooperative research by groups at Parke, Davis and Company and the University of Missouri, may very well be one reason spinach is good for building good red blood and liver or liver extract cures pernicious anemia.

Its existence has been suspected since 1940. What the scientists call vitamin B sub c, or the "anti-anemia factor for chicks," has now been isolated as thin, yellow, spearhead-shaped crystal platelets, chemically composed of carbon, hydrogen and nitrogen.

Careful as always, the scientific re-

port does not claim application to human nutrition, but there is a good chance that what works in chicks will work in man.

Dr. J. J. Pfiffner led the Parke, Davis group of scientists, and Prof. A. G. Hogan and Dr. B. L. O'Dell were the team from the University of Missouri where this vitamin has been under investigation for several years. Signing the scientific paper with Dr. Pfiffner from the Detroit laboratory were: S. B. Binkley, E. S. Bloom, R. A. Brown, O. D. Bird and A. D. Emmett.

The scientists state that they believe their vitamin is the same as the folic acid factor believed to be a vitamin and found by other scientists in spinach and other green leaves. (*See SNL*, April 10) They also think it is the same as an

"eluate factor" obtained from liver by still another group of researchers.

Science News Letter, May 8, 1943

PLANT PATHOLOGY

New Soil Disinfectant Combats Harmful Organisms

► A NEW low-cost disinfectant protects crops from injury by organisms in the soil. The chemical, called D-D mixture for short, gave a real measure of control in tests on rapidly maturing vegetable crops planted in soil heavily infested with root-knot threadworms.

Other experiments in pineapple fields, conducted during the past three years, showed a favorable response in growth, Walter Carter of the Pineapple Research Institute reports (*Science*, April 23). Results were particularly striking in an area where beetle larvae, threadworms and a fungi had ganged up to produce serious plant failure. But the favorable results in the pineapple tests did not show up for over a year after soil treatment.

Cost of the chemical is low compared with any competing disinfectant. It is especially useful where prediction of damage cannot be made prior to planting or in areas where damage is spotty. About 200 pounds of the disinfectant were applied per acre, injected into the soil at one-foot intervals. Gas masks are not needed when the applications are made in the open air.

Much experimental work remains to be done on such problems as dosage under various soil and weather conditions and on the effect of treatment on specific organisms.

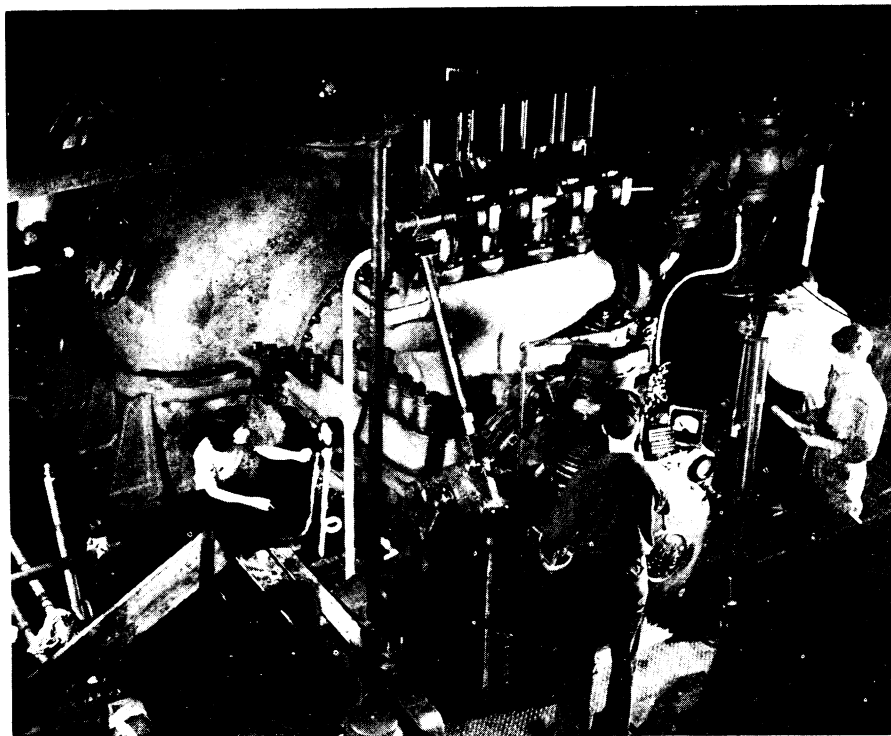
This product, which promises to bolster our food production, is technically a mixture of 1:3 dichloropropylene and 1:2 dichloropropane.

Science News Letter, May 8, 1943

GENERAL SCIENCE

Henry Wallace Elected to Philosophical Society

► VICE PRESIDENT Henry A. Wallace is among the 32 new members elected by the American Philosophical Society, oldest of scientific bodies in this country. This election is in keeping with the traditions of the Society, for it was founded by an earlier American who combined statesmanship, science and letters in one career: Benjamin Franklin. And at its recent meeting it celebrated the bicentenary of another American who had a similar career, and who was



FLOATING POWER—This 30,000-kilowatt turbine generator is one of four floating power plants that General Electric is building for the War Production Board. Towed to manufacturing areas on inland waterways, the mobile generators will provide an emergency power supply.