

## MEDICINE

# Type Early for Rh

Must be done before the first transfusion is given, British scientists warn. Otherwise transfused blood makes test unreliable.

► BLOOD typing to see whether a patient has Rh negative blood, making repeated transfusions with Rh positive blood hazardous or even fatal, must be done before the first transfusions in order to give reliable results, British medical scientists warn in the *British Medical Journal*, (April 28), which recently reached the United States.

The tragic case of a woman who received ten transfusions, most of which were from donors with Rh positive blood, before it was discovered that she had Rh negative blood is described by Drs. R. Drummond, G. L. Taylor and J. T. Rice Edwards. In the meantime she had built up extremely potent antibodies to destroy the Rh positive blood given her. The report reached the *Journal* coincidentally with the sad news of the untimely death of Dr. Taylor, one of the pioneer researchers on the Rh blood factor.

The woman came to the doctor's attention suffering from a disease of the lymph glands which necessitated transfusions. She had no apparent ill effects from the first two transfusions. It was after the third that she had trouble and her blood was then typed for Rh. Although her blood was Rh negative, the tests at that time indicated that she was Rh positive, the deceptive results being due to the large quantity of transfused Rh positive blood.

When they later found out that the woman's blood was Rh negative, the physicians were puzzled that there were no more serious symptoms as a result of the Rh positive transfusions. Except for the difficulty with the third transfusion, the first six transfusions showed no obvious ill effects. The symptoms during the seventh were not especially severe. Nothing happened during the eighth and ninth transfusions although bad symptoms did develop later. And yet in the ninth transfusion just about a quart of red blood cells were given—donated by four Rh positive donors;

The scientists believe that the patient withstood this experience because of the fact that the blood was transfused by the slow drip method, which lessens the severity of reactions when they occur.

Extremely potent antibodies, destructive of Rh positive blood cells, were built up in the patient's blood. At one time

after the tenth transfusion, her blood was destructive of Rh positive cells when it was diluted to one part in 1,024,000. When a dilution of one part in 64 or one part in 128 is still effective, the agglutinins are usually considered to be very potent.

Fourteen more transfusions were given the patient, using blood from 27 Rh negative blood donors. Although improvement followed each transfusion and the hemoglobin was raised from 29% to 70%, the patient's original illness became worse and she finally died. (See also page 346)

*Science News Letter, June 2, 1945*

## PSYCHOLOGY

## San Francisco Conference Neglects Important Step

► THE TRAINING of the coming generation to accept an international way of thinking is one essential step that is in danger of being overlooked at the San Francisco Conference, and no mention was made of it in the Dumbarton Oaks proposals, declared Dr. Gordon W. Allport, chairman of the Department of Psychology at Harvard University, and Dr. Gardner Murphy, chairman of the Department of Psychology at the Collège of the City of New York. They pointed out that to date nothing has been said of educational goals for all nations to adopt, nor are there any binding commitments to teach the children of the earth an international way of thinking.

Recommendations to the San Francisco Conference made by Dr. Murphy and Dr. Allport, while speaking as guests of Watson Davis, director of Science Service, on the CBS public service feature "Adventures in Science", included the creation of certain symbols of international unity, such as international scientific institutions, art museums, parks, and even international universities, so that the world over, young people will have something concrete to look to, to admire, to become loyal to.

"I'd like to see a binding covenant that would commit all the United Nations to teach scientific facts about racial



**LEAF PATTERN**—This photograph of a castor bean, by Jon D. Dodds of Benton, Ky. was selected as the best in the Plant Life Class in the Seventh International Salon of Nature Photography conducted by *Hobbies*, the magazine of the Buffalo Museum of Science.

and international differences. No race is entirely superior to any other. All are just about alike. The differences in language, color, and custom can be taught in a way to arouse the pupil's interest and respect, rather than in the old-fashioned way, to arouse contempt and hatred. Race prejudice is not instinctive. No child is born a bigot. Our national hatreds are learned, and education should be changed in every country to make sure that wholesome attitudes are learned," Dr. Murphy asserted.

Pointing out that if our peace plans are to work, all races will have to participate equally in the plan for collective security, Dr. Allport urged a world-wide public opinion poll.

"We have excellent means today of finding out what the man in the street wants, needs and thinks. Why shouldn't this method be used to keep statesmen informed of the condition of public opinion all over the world?" Dr. Allport asked.

The two speakers pointed out that for a successful peace we must replace age-old power politics with a policy that makes full use of the state of mind of the common people.

*Science News Letter, June 2, 1945*