

ALSOS

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by **Dr. Samuel A. Goudsmit**

Professor of Physics, Northwestern University

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MEDICINE

Antibodies Found in Blood Of Bleeders Prevent Clots

► DISCOVERY of a substance in the blood that can add extra danger to the already precarious life of a sufferer from hemophilia, hereditary bleeding disease, is announced by Drs. John S. Lawrence and Charles G. Craddock, Jr., of the University of Rochester, N. Y., School of Medicine and Dentistry in the journal, *Science* (Nov. 14).

The substance is an anti-clotting, or anticoagulant, material. Hemophiliacs live in constant danger of bleeding to death from minor cuts or from spontaneous hemorrhages because their blood clots very slowly when shed. Transfusions of whole blood or injections of an antihemophilic fraction of normal blood, extracted by Dr. Edwin J. Cohn of Harvard, ordinarily save the bleeder by speeding up the formation of a blood clot.

These usually successful agents failed to speed clotting in the cases of two men seen by the Rochester doctors. Not only that, but the blood of the two men slowed down the clotting time of normal blood.

The reason, the Rochester scientists believe, is that the blood of the two hemophiliacs had developed antibodies against the clotting material in normal blood. The antibodies are thought to have developed as a result of repeated transfusions of whole blood previously given the two men.

Other hemophiliacs may develop the same antibodies, and this may account for their failure to respond to blood transfusions and antihemophilic blood globulin given to stop their bleeding.

Science News Letter, November 29, 1947

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