

PHARMACOLOGY

Anti-Germ Chemicals

Seaweed yields material that stops test tube growth of micro-organisms. Safer gold medicine for arthritis treatment suggested to pharmacologists.

► ANTI-GERM remedies of the future may come from seaweed, it appears from a report by University of California College of Pharmacy researchers in San Francisco to the American Pharmaceutical Association meeting in Buffalo, N. Y.

They tested about three dozen species of marine algae from the central California coast. Material extracted from eight of these stopped the test tube growth of three kinds of micro-organisms: *Staphylococcus aureus* familiar in the boils, the colon bacillus and *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, the bacillus that produces blue pus in wounds.

The germ-stopping activity of these seaweeds was not due to their iodine content. Scientists reporting these findings were: Robertson Pratt, Henry Mautner, Yi-Hshien Sha, Grace Gardener and Jean Dufrenoy.

Excessive Sweating

Excessive sweating was effectively controlled in 44 volunteer patients by a drug called bantnine bromide, Dr. Arthur G. Zupko of the St. Louis College of Pharmacy and Allied Sciences reported at the meeting.

The drug is available only on a physician's prescription. Its effect in checking sweating was accidentally discovered during its use in treatment of stomach ulcers.

Although 40 of the patients showed good results in control of the excessive sweating when taking two to three tablets of bantnine

daily, two patients with severe excessive sweating were not helped by four tablets daily.

Constipation, heartburn and headache were the most common side effects, though none was severe. The drug must be taken continuously to control the excessive sweating.

Safer Arthritis Treatment

A safer gold medicine for treating rheumatoid arthritis may be at hand, it appears from a study reported by Dr. J. Leon Lichtin of the Cincinnati College of Pharmacy to the pharmacists.

Solution of the arthritis problem will eventually come through hormones, such as cortisone and ACTH and perhaps others, Dr. Lichtin believes. But meanwhile a less toxic gold compound than those now used will give doctors one more weapon against arthritis.

The new and safer gold medicine for arthritis is gold cincophen. In tests on mice it took 1.7 times more of this compound to kill a mouse than of currently used gold salts, Dr. Lichtin found.

This and several other new gold compounds, among them two gold vitamins, gold nicotinic acid and gold thiamine, were made by Dr. Lichtin and Dr. Loyd E. Harris while they were at Ohio State University College of Pharmacy, Columbus. Dr. Harris is now in military service.

The gold vitamins did not seem as promising as the gold cincophen compounds, so far as lack of toxicity is concerned.

Further testing of them on animals and perhaps eventual trial in patients are needed, but Dr. Lichtin said he does not plan to make such studies himself.

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New standard *kilogram*, on which future determinations of mass in Canada will be based, has arrived in Ottawa after certification by the International Bureau of Weights and Measurements.

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