

MEDICINE

# Nature's Yellow Dye

► NATURE'S YELLOW dyestuff and related chemicals, found in such different things as oranges, tree barks and tobacco, promise to help fight certain artery troubles and other ailments of man.

The chemicals are now called bioflavonoids. One of them, discovered in 1936 by Dr. Alfred Szent-Gyorgyi, Nobel prize winner, has been named vitamin P or Citrin.

At a New York Academy of Medicine conference in New York honoring Hungarian-born Dr. Szent-Gyorgyi, scientists told of new uses for such chemicals.

The successful use of one of them in the artery trouble, coronary thrombosis, was reported by Dr. Charles E. Brambel of Mercy Hospital, Baltimore. Patients with this and other artery trouble are often given anti-coagulant chemicals to keep their blood from forming dangerous clots in

vital blood vessels. But in about one in 20 patients the anti-clotting treatment causes bleeding from tiny blood vessels called capillaries. Black and blue spots appear on arms and legs without any bump or bruise to cause them. There may be bleeding from the nose and mouth, or from the rectum or there may be blood in the urine.

To check this without stopping the anti-clotting treatment, Dr. Brambel has been giving one of the bioflavonoids, hesperidin, with vitamin C. In tests, one group of patients was given the hesperidin-vitamin C treatment after black and blue spots had developed. These cleared in two or three days, much faster than usual in such cases, and it was not necessary to stop the anti-clotting chemicals.

In another group of 200 patients, the two chemicals were given at the start of the

anti-clotting treatment. None developed any bleeding complications of any kind, though these would have been expected in at least 10. The hesperidin-vitamin C were given in capsules of a combination called Hesper-C by the manufacturer, National Drug Company of Philadelphia.

Just how the substances act on capillaries is not fully understood. Dr. Gustav J. Martin of National Drug suggested that the true mechanism is probably a series of interrelated actions.

Dr. Richard E. Lee of Cornell University Medical School said he thinks that blood leakage into tissue occurs not in the capillaries, but in the venules, the next larger branch of the circulatory tree.

Some of the bioflavonoids act like female hormones in influencing the breeding cycles of animals, Dr. Edmund Cheng of Iowa Agricultural Experiment Station, Ames, Iowa, reported. Among these are genistein, diadzen and biochanin A, which are found in clover and alfalfa hays.

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