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PHYSIOLOGY

New Blood Factor Found in Bleeders

➤ A NEW ANTI-BLOOD clotting factor has been found in the blood of persons with hemophilia and Christmas disease, two poorly understood "bleeding" disorders.

The blood in these persons refuses to clot normally and even a minor bruise or cut can have serious consequences.

The new-found anticoagulant bears no resemblance to any anti-clotting substance that has been previously reported, Drs. F. Nour-Eldin and John F. Wilkinson, University of Manchester, England, report in *Nature* (Nov. 9).

The blood disorders are believed due to the lack of one or another of the blood clotting factors found in normal blood.

Studies of blood taken from 123 persons with the disorders showed that in addition to lacking these necessary components, the blood also contained a substance that was actively restricting the formation of clots.

The anticoagulant is present at birth and is found in the plasma and not in blood serum.

"It is now our opinion that the defect in these two diseases is produced by a deficiency in a blood clotting factor as well as by the presence of this anticoagulant," the scientists say.

The amount of the anticoagulant in the blood greatly affects the condition of patients with the disorder, they conclude. A name was not given to the newly discovered anticoagulant.

Science News Letter, November 23, 1957

Do You Know?

An instrument concealed inside ordinary shipping containers makes measurements of rough handling without the knowledge of the handling personnel.

Soil subsidence, the continual shrinkage of soil and lowering of its level, is the evidence that this highly organic material is oxidizing and disappearing into the air as gases.

Primitive peoples have invented clever surgical devices such as the closing of wounds with the jaws of large ants whose heads were broken off.

Because lithium-6 produces no radioactive ash, this form of the element is important in the development of a "clean" H-bomb.

RADIO

Saturday, Nov. 30, 1957 1:30-1:45 p.m. EST

"Adventures in Science" with Watson Davis, director of Science Service, over the CBS Radio network. Check your local CBS station.

Dr. J. Edmund Bradley, professor and head of the department of pediatrics, University of Maryland School of Medicine, Baltimore, and Lawrence C. Salter, secretary, Playtex Park Research Institute, New York City, will discuss "Lead Poisoning."