

Cysteine May Keep Heart Muscle Alive

➤ A TINY SEGMENT of a giant protein molecule may be the key to what keeps the heart muscle alive.

Drs. Mary E. Carsten and Wilfried F. H. M. Mommaerts of the Los Angeles County Heart Association Cardiovascular Research Laboratory report that a particular segment, an amino acid called cysteine, appears directly involved with the basic chemical fuel of muscle action. Thus it may be a vital link in the muscle contraction process.

This finding may have important implications in the heart muscle weakness seen in heart failure. Some scientists believe that this disorder may be related to faulty fuel consumption.

The giant molecule is a protein known as actin, which, along with another protein, myosin, does the work of muscle contraction.

The laboratory is affiliated with the University of California at Los Angeles.

• Science News Letter, 82:183 September 15, 1962

Questions

BIOLOGY—How have algae been shown to have a circulatory system? p. 172.

Where does the green turtle lay its eggs? p. 174.

MEDICINE—What is encephalitis? p. 176.

PHYSICS—To what accuracy are U.S. and English clocks now synchronized? p. 175.

Photographs: Cover, Dr. Archie Carr-National Science Foundation; p. 171, New York University; p. 173, U.S. Science Exhibit-Seattle Century 21 World's Fair; p. 174, The Good-year Tire & Rubber Company; p. 175, U.S. Naval Observatory; p. 178, Science Service; p. 184 (top), M. Meghrig & Sons; p. 184 (bottom), Fremont Davis.

PSYCHOLOGY

Safest Color for Car Is Blue and Yellow

➤ IF BLUE and yellow become the auto colors of choice this coming year, blame it on psychological research.

The American Medical Association reports (Today's Health, Sept.) with approval that a two-tone blue and yellow automobile appears to be one of the safest combinations, based on University of California at Los Angeles research.

Blue is ranked safest in daylight and fog, and yellow safest at night. Gray shades make objects appear farther away than they actually are.

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There are three classifications of *meteorites*, iron, stony-iron and stone.

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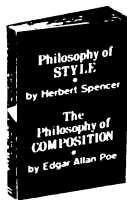
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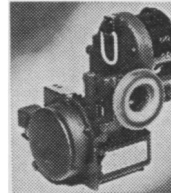
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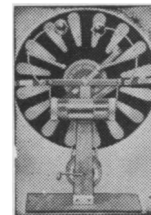
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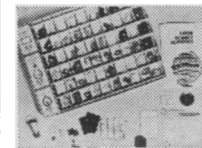
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