

from abroad

DENMARK

Sucrose vs. Glucose

A bouncing little Danish inventor, Karl Kroyer, is organizing an international conference in London this month on the role of carbohydrates in human metabolism. Experts from Britain, the United States, Japan and Sweden will discuss the role of sucrose in heart disease and tooth cavities and whether these effects can be eliminated or reduced by replacing sucrose by glucose.

Kroyer's role is very much that of an interested party. He has discovered a new way of crystallizing glucose from cornstarch and he is hoping to battle the world's sugar industry. He believes that the food industry and individual consumers should have a choice between conventional sugar (sucrose) and his own glucose product.

This looks like sugar, is 75 percent as sweet as sugar, costs about the same to produce and has a better preserving effect than sucrose.

Behind Kroyer's plans to develop the production of his product, which he calls total sugar, are the findings of several researchers, among them Prof. John Yudkin of Queen Elizabeth College, London University, of the link between sucrose consumption and cholesterol levels and arteriosclerosis, and the further findings that cholesterol levels can be significantly reduced by replacing sucrose with glucose.

The other disease encouraged by a high sucrose consumption is dental caries, and work by Dr. B. J. Krasse, Lund University, Sweden, has shown that in hamsters inoculated with caries-producing streptococci a very low incidence of caries was found in animals on a diet in which sucrose was replaced by glucose.

Kroyer, whose past inventions include a process for making paper without the use of water, and a road surfacing material called Synopal which reduces skidding and dazzle from wet roads (Synopal will be placed on sale in the U.S. shortly through a licensee), has been in the glucose business for some years. He developed a process for turning starch into corn syrup and has 55 factories, four in the U.S. operating on a license basis.

So far two small production plants, one in Britain, one in the Netherlands, are producing total sugar at the rate of about a metric ton a day each. Kroyer is intending to follow the January symposium with a conference for the food industry next October.

H. J. Barnes

ideas OF THE WEEK

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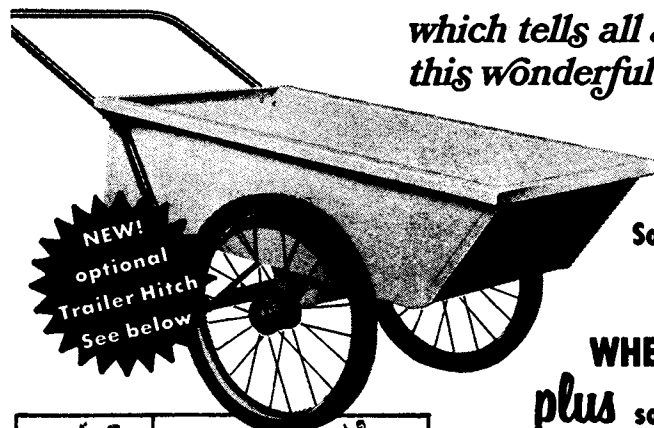
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27 January 1968/vol. 93/science news/101