

MEDICINE

50,000 Blood Donors Weekly Needed To Supply Quota

2,500,000 Pints of Blood Required During Next Year; Dried Plasma and Serum Albumin To Be Used for Army

ANY CIVILIANS still wondering what they can do to help the nation's war effort can step up with a pint of blood to save the life of a wounded American soldier, sailor or marine.

Blood donors are needed at the rate of 50,000 per week for the next 12 months, Chairman Norman H. Davis, of the American Red Cross, announced. The Army and Navy have requested the Red Cross to collect a new quota of 2,500,000 pints of blood within that period.

The blood collected by the Red Cross will be processed into dried plasma and serum albumin for emergency transfusions for the armed forces. The serum albumin is a recently developed blood substitute in which the Navy is especially interested because it requires less storage space than plasma.

The Red Cross until now has had to restrict the quotas of its donor centers because of the limited capacities of the laboratories processing the blood. Laboratory capacity is being rapidly expanded, however, and will, with new

ones soon to be participating in the program, have a combined capacity to process at least 2,500,000 pints of blood during the next 12 months and the total may reach 3,000,000.

The blood must reach a processing laboratory within 24 hours after it is drawn. For that reason, the Red Cross has had to limit donor centers to those regions near processing laboratories. Red Cross blood donor centers for the Army and Navy now exist in the following cities: New York, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Rochester, N. Y., Buffalo, Boston, Brooklyn, Cincinnati, Cleveland, Chicago, Detroit, Pittsburgh, Indianapolis, St. Louis, Milwaukee, Los Angeles, San Francisco, and Washington, D. C.

Those who have already given blood can do so again. The average healthy man or woman can safely give blood for transfusions every three months, according to a recent report to the American Medical Association. The safe time is marked by the return to normal value of the hemoglobin, red coloring matter of the blood.

Science News Letter, August 8, 1942

The value of these other fruits instead of bananas for babies with celiac disease was shown some years ago by Prof. Guido Fanconi, of the University of Zürich, Switzerland. Physicians at Harriet Lane have so far been able to get bananas for sick babies, but knowing that the supplies are dwindling because war is cutting off shipments from Central America, they have started using the fruits which Dr. Fanconi found satisfactory in the treatment of celiac disease.

An amino acid-milk preparation is now on the market and this also is being used at Harriet Lane with apparently good results. In fact the physicians there, although cautious about saying much until they have had more experience with it, believe it has great potentialities.

Celiac disease, an authority of the U. S. Children's Bureau explained, is a chronic intestinal disease in which the infant is unable to absorb fat and also has trouble digesting starch and sugars.

Babies with this disease usually must be given lots of protein in their diet and the bananas help because they furnish carbohydrate in a form (monosaccharide) the babies can digest. The new amino acid-milk preparation would help build up the protein in the diet, since amino acids are chemical building-blocks of protein. Dried banana powder might be used where fresh bananas are not obtainable.

Bananas have become a staple article of the modern infant's diet in health as well as sickness. Mothers of healthy babies need not be alarmed over the banana shortage. The baby's doctor can tell them how to revise the diet so as to eliminate bananas if that is necessary without any impairment of baby's health or nutritional state.

Science News Letter, August 8, 1942

Three million new agricultural workers will be needed in 1942, according to the War Man Power Commission.

NUTRITION

"Yes, We Have No Bananas" But Babies Need Not Suffer

Other Fruits, Such As Apples and Pears, Substitute In Youngsters' Diet; Physician Can Advise Change

"YES, we have no bananas" is so true today as to be hardly comic but babies, sick or well, need not suffer from the lack.

Reports of a bunch of bananas being rushed from New York to Montreal by air to save an infant's life, and other reports that 200 New York babies were in danger of dying of celiac disease because of the banana shortage prompted an inquiry of child specialists about the

importance of bananas in infant diets.

Bananas are a great asset but are not essential for the cure of celiac disease, according to experts at the Harriet Lane Home for Invalid Children, Johns Hopkins Hospital, Baltimore.

Other fruits, such as strained apples, strained apricots, and strained pears can be used instead of bananas and are now being used at this world-renowned hospital, apparently satisfactorily.

● RADIO

Saturday, August 15, 1:30 p.m., EWT

"Adventures in Science," with Watson Davis, director of Science Service, over Columbia Broadcasting System.

Dr. H. S. Bernton, of Washington, D. C., will discuss hay fever.

Tuesday, August 11, 7:30 p.m., EWT

Science Clubs of America programs over WRUL, Boston, on 6.04, 9.70 and 11.73 megacycles.

One in a series of regular periods over this short wave station to serve science clubs, particularly in the high schools, throughout the Americas. Have your science group listen in at this time.