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Questions

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ICHTHYOLOGY—Why is the discovery of tuna larvae important to scientists? p. 137.

MEDICINE—What effect does stress have on the body's cholesterol? p. 132.

METEOROLOGY—What are three theories given to explain the gradually increasing temperature of the earth's atmosphere? p. 134.

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MEDICINE

Anticoagulant Drug Helps Asthma Also

➤ AN ANTICOAGULANT drug used in heart patients has been found to help bronchial asthma as well as blood circulation.

This is reported by Drs. Harold Blumberg, Hyman B. Dayton and Samuel M. Gordon, Endo Laboratories Inc., Richmond Hill, N. Y., in *Science* (Jan. 24).

The anticoagulant is warfarin, or Coumadin, sodium and, after its anti-asthma effects were noted in several heart patients, it was tested on the windpipes of guinea pigs. The scientists found the drug had a definite dilating ability and was about half as effective as aminophylline, widely used asthmatic drug.

"It has been pointed out that some of the beneficial action of anticoagulants in myocardial infarction (heart attacks) may be due to properties other than that affecting coagulation," the scientists report.

The initial dose of the anticoagulant in humans could possibly produce an immediate dilation of the bronchial tubes as well as starting the slower anticoagulant action, they conclude.

Science News Letter, March 1, 1958

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