

MEDICINE

# Yeast May Take Its Place With Liver in Treating Anemia

## Physicians' Meeting Hears Also of Important Remedy For Hemophilia and New Method for Study of Blood

**Y**EAST can cure pernicious anemia, as well as liver or dried stomach preparations.

Success in treating pernicious anemia patients with dehydrated yeast was reported by Dr. Maxwell M. Wintrobe of the Johns Hopkins Hospital at the meeting of the American Society for Clinical Investigation at Atlantic City.

Even more interesting to physicians than the discovery of a pernicious anemia remedy in yeast is the possibility this discovery holds that scientists may be able some day to identify the anti-anemia substance contained in liver and yeast.

The generally accepted theory now is that for normal blood formation in man, two factors are needed. One is an extrinsic factor derived from foods such as beef muscle. The other is an intrinsic factor secreted by the stomach. Lack of this latter factor is considered the cause of pernicious anemia.

No one has ever been able to identify either of these factors or to determine what the anti-anemic substance itself is. Yeast is a very complicated substance, but several important substances have already been isolated from it. These include vitamin B<sub>1</sub>, riboflavin and nicotinic acid. It is hoped that further studies may lead to identification and isolation of the anti-anemic substance.

Another important angle of the research reported is the fact that it shows that anti-anemic factors are present in plant as well as animal tissues. This may explain why pernicious anemia does not occur in animals other than man. The anti-anemic substance may be so widely distributed and so readily available to other animals that they never fail to get enough of it to prevent pernicious anemia.

### Remedy for Hemophilia

A powder from beef blood which stops dangerous bleeding in hemophilia was reported by Drs. Frederick J. Pohle and F. H. L. Taylor, of Harvard Medical School and Boston City Hospital.

The ever-present danger to a person

suffering from hemophilia is the fact that his blood clots so slowly he may bleed to death from a small cut. The condition is hereditary, affecting only males but being transmitted through the mother.

The powdered substance from beef blood checked bleeding from external wounds and following tooth extractions in five hemophilia sufferers, Drs. Pohle and Taylor reported. The substance it-

self is a protein called globulin and was obtained from the fluid or plasma of beef blood. It is effective only when applied as a powder to the bleeding surface. It failed to hasten the clotting of the hemophiliac's blood when given by mouth, or to stop bleeding when used locally in solution.

This life-saving material, the scientists pointed out, is not yet available in large enough amounts for general distribution.

### Pump Blood Through Corpses

Pumping blood through dead bodies sounds pretty gruesome, but two St. Louis scientists, Drs. John Russell Smith and William Bryan Kountz of Washington University School of Medicine, have found it a valuable means of learning more about causes of high blood pressure and the way diseases affect various organs of the body.



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