



TOMATIN CRYSTALS — They have been found effective against athlete's foot fungi and other fungus growths and parasitic yeasts which cause disease in man and animals, including the fungi that produce skin and scalp ringworm.

Adding the chemical to sugar would stop tooth decay by checking the ferment which causes acid to be formed from sugar in the mouth, Dr. Fosdick explained. The acid, if not promptly neutralized, breaks down tooth enamel, removing the calcium, or lime, which makes it hard. Cavities form and the decay process sets in.

Announcement of the tests at the Harvard rat colony of Dr. Fosdick's method was made by Dr. Robert C. Hockett, scientific director of the Sugar Research Foundation.

Results of the tests should be known by May, he said. If the method works in rats, there is every reason to believe it will work in human mouths.

Glyceric aldehyde, the chemical to be added to sugar for preventing tooth decay, is such a rare substance that only two pounds of it are known to exist anywhere in the world. Almost all of this two pounds is in the possession of the Sugar Research Foundation. Dr. Fosdick obtained a small vial of it, made before the war in Europe, through the efforts of Dr. H. O. L. Fischer, son of the distinguished carbohydrate chemist, Emil Fischer. Dr. Fischer made the rest of it available to the Sugar Research Foundation as part of the program to discover uses for some of the 10,000 close chemical relatives and derivatives of common sugar.

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MEDICINE

Histadyl Is Ally of Drugs

This newest comer to the anti-allergy group prevents side reactions from such life-saving remedies as penicillin and streptomycin when given with them.

► PATIENTS no longer need to be excluded from the benefits of such life-saving remedies as penicillin and streptomycin because of allergic reactions. A new synthetic drug called Histadyl prevents their formation when given with other drugs in treatment, Dr. M. H. Mothersill of the medical department of the Lilly Research Laboratories, told the Indiana Section of the American Chemical Society meeting in Indianapolis.

The usefulness of many drugs has been limited because of the increasing number of side-reactions which accompanied their administration in patients. Dr. Mothersill treated such a group of 16 patients suffering from drug allergies with Histadyl given by mouth and found that it produced sufficient relief for the patients to tolerate the reaction-causing drug for "indefinite periods." Only one patient in this group failed to gain relief.

The dramatic action of Histadyl was demonstrated in a seven-year-old girl who had to have streptomycin, according to Dr. Mothersill. She was able to take one gram of the remedy daily for

three months with this new ally, but when the anti-allergy compound was withdrawn, the girl had skin eruptions which caused intense itching and burning.

Other conditions for which this latest member of the anti-histamine family of drugs is effective, are hay fever, food allergies, allergic headaches and even in some cases of reaction following blood transfusion.

Such side-reactions as drowsiness and lightheadedness were the only undesirable effects of the new drug. The physician declared that "rarely did these symptoms interfere with the patient's ability to continue the routine." Five patients examined expressly for the purpose of determining any accumulative bad effects from the drug, showed no evidence of damage to the blood, heart, liver or kidneys, although they had been taking the drug daily for three months.

But the physician believes that a study of a larger group of patients is necessary before it can definitely be assumed that no bad effects will follow.

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MEDICINE

Surgery Remedies Sterility

► MANY of the younger men in Europe who were sterilized by surgical operation under the Nazi regime can have another operation which will permit them to become fathers if they wish, Dr. Vincent J. O'Connor of Northwestern University Medical School declares.

The second operation may be successful in from 35% to 40% of the patients, he reports in the *Journal of the American Medical Association* (Jan. 17).

The figures are based on his own experience and that of 750 surgeons among 1,240 to whom he sent questionnaires on the subject. The possibility of success will depend, he states, on the freedom of the tissues from previous inflammation.

The normal male sex glands continue to produce spermatozoa, or male germ cells, for an indefinite period after the sterilizing operation. In one of Dr. O'Connor's patients an operation 18

years after the sterilizing operation was successful in restoring the patient's ability for parenthood.

The hopeless view taken by medical as well as lay and religious groups on the possibility of Hitler's victims being restored to normal after the sterilizing operation should be revised, Dr. O'Connor thinks, and surgical aid offered to those who request it. The reason for the hopeless view, it appears from his report, is that no one surgeon has had much experience with the corrective operation. This is because in the past most of the sterilizing operations have been done at the request of the patient and few of them have ever wanted to have their fertility restored.

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An even number of rows of grain are found on nearly all ears of corn.