

Skimmed Milk Found Cure for Disease Causing Wasted Bodies

By DELOS SMITH
United Press Science Editor

New York — (U.P.)—As you have expected, science couldn't rest easy with the knowledge that skimmed milk will take care of kwashiorkor, which is a strange disease as well as an odd word. Science has just found out that it is the casein skimmed milk that does the trick.

Another piece of outlandish-sounding knowledge is that enough sweet peas for long enough in the diets of young rats will cause their bodies to

take themselves apart, so to speak. That piece of knowledge worries science. If it could be fully understood, the understanding might produce wonders.

Afflicts Thousands

Kwashiorkor is a wasting, lingering, debilitating disease which afflicts many thousands of human beings, particularly in Africa. Its cause was finally traced to a consistent lack of protein in the diet. Comparatively recently, it was found that the mere taking of such a pro-

tein-rich food as skimmed milk would start the wasted human being on the road to health.

But to provide skimmed milk for all the sufferers was a task staggering to contemplate. So a group of Union of South Africa scientists, headed by Dr. J. F. Brock, professor of medicine at the University of Capetown, set out to find out just what in skimmed milk produced the wonderful effect.

Formulas Prepared

Skimmed milk is not simple. It contains two important proteins, casein and lactalbumin. Also it contains vitamins and minerals in trace amounts and some carbohydrate.

They prepared formulas. Each contained one ingredient only. In three centers of South Africa, they treated groups of kwashiorkor sufferers with one formula or another. Only one formula had the same effect as skimmed milk. It contained casein mixed with water, glucose, and salt.

The discovery gives rich promise for the final conquest of the disease because casein can be man-made in part. But the scientists, in reporting to the world of science in the medical journal, "The Lancet," revealed that they were still investigating. Having found out what in skimmed milk did the work, they now want to know what in casein does it.

The fascinating mystery of the sweet peas (and other legumes) was presented to the scientific world by Drs. William B. Bean and Ignacio V. Ponseti of the State University of Iowa through a technical publication of the American Heart Association. They studied the autopsy records of 27 human beings who had died of dissecting aneurysm and found striking similarities to laboratory rats whose living skeletons had been made to more or less fall apart with a diet dominated by a meal made of sweet pea seeds.

Arterial Walls Weakened

An aneurysm is a weakening of an arterial wall to such an extent, the wall balloons out. A "dissecting" one is one which does just that—it takes the wall apart, by softening and then liquefying. As a disease, it is rare and no one had suggested before that it could be connected with diet.

But the rats on the sweet pea meal diet had developed hunched backs and other skeletal defects, and hernias. The diet acted upon the body's "ground substance," which, the doctors pointed out, is "the glue which holds the frame together."

Dr. Ponseti had conducted some of the rat experiments. He was impressed by how many developed dissecting aneurysms while developing skeletal defects. Arterial walls are based upon "round substance," as bones are. That led to the study of human cases and the discovery that many had had skeletal defects.

You can see what a fertile field this could be. Knowing it full well, Bean and Ponseti called it to the attention of all scientists.

Car in Living Room Is Not a Bad Dream

Wichita, Kan.—(U.P.)—A young carpenter didn't move a muscle when his wife exclaimed: "Get up, Gordon—there's a car in the living room!"

Gordon Willett muttered: "Stop making up fairy tales and come to bed."

He wasn't even convinced when his wife's declaration was backed by their son, Denis, 10; a nephew, Bobby, 12; and a niece, Glenda, 13.

They insisted there was an automobile in the living room of the house the Willetts had rented one month earlier.

"Fine," answered the sleepy head of the house. "I'll stay here and you go out and see how big it is."

One more try and they made their point. Willett shook sleep from his head, walked to the living room and shook his head again. A car was parked half inside the room, its bumper against the console radio.

The radio was just scratched but the entire northwest corner of the room was gone.

The car owner was charged with reckless driving, and the house owner called repairmen. "Guess we've got the best ventilated living room in town," said Willett.



RELEASED from Red Chinese prison after more than 5 years, Lawrence Buol is greeted by his wife at Hong Kong. Buol had been flight operations chief for Gen. Claire Chennault's Civil Air Transport airline when arrested by the Reds. (International)

On The Side

By E. V. DURLING
(Distributed by King Features Syndicate, Inc.)

Are sailors at sea safer than people on shore? In discussing the recent hurricanes, Capt. A. G. Graham of the S. S. African Enterprise expressed a belief that such is the case. Says the captain, "We at sea are safer than you on shore. The modern steamship can take anything in the way of weather, and radar and other electronic devices have reduced collisions at sea to negligible proportions. The most dangerous part of a sea trip is entering or leaving a harbor, though the passengers think it the safest time."

Get It Right

A Japanese subscriber, demanding a carefully wrapped stogie by return mail, says I said Peace Avenue in Hiroshima is 100 yards wide. He says it is wider. I didn't say the avenue in question was 100 yards wide. I said it was "100 meters wide." A meter, as you know, is equal to 39 and 37/100 inches.

Asking

Queries from clients. Q. What is the size of a boxing ring, according to the Marquis of Queensberry rules? A. Twenty-four feet square. However, the Marciano-Moore bout arrangements call for a 20-foot square ring. Marciano would have liked to have a 16-foot square ring... Q. What is the name of the Russian who is chess champion of the world? A. Mikhail Botvinnik of Russia was chess champion but is no more. The present champion is Samuel Reshevsky of New York City.

Speed Boy

California is in again. This time to claim the world's record for a speedy shave. Recently a barber named Antonio Buono, of Italy, was reported to have shaved a man in 20 seconds. Signor Buono claimed the world's speedy shave record. Now Joe Ryba of El Centro, Calif., says that on April 19, 1938, in the presence of witnesses, he shaved his fellow townsman, Louis Kneitz, in 8-2/10 seconds!

Horses and Women

Was it Tennyson or Byron who referred to a woman as being "divinely tall"? So asks a feminine subscriber, who says her height is 5 feet 10. It was Tennyson. However, Byron described a character as follows: "Her stature tall. I hate a dumpy woman."

Pronunciation

What is America's most disputed pronunciation? How about the name of the City of Los Angeles? Los Angeles resident says he has lived there 55 years and still doesn't know for certain what is the correct pronunciation of the city's name. I still claim it should be pronounced: "Loce-ahn-hell-ess." This reminds me, I received a letter from a man who has lived in Los Angeles for 88 years. He arrived there by covered wagon in 1867 when the town's population was 2,000. I'll ask him how he pronounces Los Angeles.

Sidelights

As for durable autoists, can you top Walter Shriner of Salem, Ia., who passed the required test and received a license to drive when he was 101? ... Rosoff's world famous restaurant, located at Times Square, Manhattan, is, at the suggestion of this department, featuring a "Number 999 sandwich." This is a plain ham sandwich absolutely devoid of any unwelcome trimmings.

Sex Crime Study Under Way in State

Salem—(U.P.)—What is expected to be an exhaustive study of sex crimes and sex offenders in Oregon got under way here yesterday by the legislative interim committee to study sex crime prevention.

L. R. Barnes, deputy warden at the state penitentiary, reported to his fellow committee members that studies he has made so far indicate the interim group could well give considerable attention to the Wisconsin system. There, as in other states, the emphasis is on prevention, although cure, too, is given considerable study.

The Japanese Peace Treaty was signed at San Francisco on Sept. 8, 1951, by 49 nations.

Eisenhower Urges Public Pressure For Better Roads

Washington — (U.P.)—President Eisenhower urged motorists today to put pressure on Congress for better highways. He did so in a message to the 53rd annual convention of the American Automobile association.

Mr. Eisenhower asked the 1,200 delegates "to speak up again and again for prompt action" by Congress "on a highway system adequate for modern living... a modern road system is one of our great national needs."

Mr. Eisenhower's original proposal for a multi-billion highway construction program financed by special bonds, was sidetracked in the last session of Congress. The issue is certain to have high priority in the next session.

Warns of Political Danger

AAA President Andrew J. Sordani of Wilkes Barre, Pa., warned the motor club delegates that new highway plans could be endangered by political groups and private interests "which want the roads but do not want to pay for them."

Sordani also said "the spirit of crackdown is abroad in the land" in enforcement of traffic rules.

"Helicopters hover over the road, unmarked police cars and cops not in uniform lie in wait," he said. "Over a thousand radar and other devices patrol our major roads. Fee-splitting constables and justices of the peace make small communities poten-

tial traffic traps."

"We must work for the rule of reason and fight to the last ditch against unjustified crack-downs which, in the final analysis, do more harm than good," he said.

DOG MONEY

Robinson, Ill.—(U.P.)—Brownie, a cocker spaniel owned by Postmaster H. L. Thompson, usually carries home a package when she accompanies Mrs. Thompson on shopping trips. On a recent visit to a grocery, Brownie refused to take a package in his teeth and when Mrs. Thompson got home the dog deposited a mouthful of dollar bills at her feet. The money was returned to the store but no one claimed it.

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