

MEDFORD TRIBUNE

United Press—Full Leased Wire

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SECOND SECTION

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Trick in Body Chemistry Rouses Defenders Against Diseases

BY DELOS SMITH
United Press Science Editor
New York — A newly learned trick in body chemistry rouses the defenders against disease after they've been laid very low—which is not only a very neat trick but one which has life-saving possibilities for people.

These defenders are our scavenger cells, the phagocytes, which consume and digest foreign substances that could sicken and end up killing us if those phagocytes weren't both energetic and exceedingly devoted to duty.

Ordinarily there is peaceful co-existence if not quiet cooperation between them and the potent chemicals which come out of the adrenal glands—cortisone and its related hormones.

That goes, too, for their relations with hormones of other glands, especially those which, depending upon the abundance of production, are responsible for characteristic contours and features of men and women.

Effect Like Magic
Bodily thinks that were that way until it was discovered that when the body's normal supply of cortisone was increased from the outside, the effect upon inflammatory processes, like arthritis, was like magic.

Cortisone and its chemical derivatives become "miracle drugs." Chemists learned how to make them in factories, and so suffering mankind was no longer dependent on animal bodies as sources of supply.

Then it was discovered that in some people (not in all people, mind) heavy doses over a considerable time, laid the phagocytes very low. With the body defenders stymied, infections got going at a galloping pace.

Tuberculosis, for instance. And pneumonia. Sickening bacteria which had been held in check by busy little phagocytes, suddenly became like the avalanche and an inflammatory process was reversed but the patient died.

That made cortisone and its derivatives, chemicals worthy of the most profound respect. They remained "miracle drugs" in the full sense of the word—but their use became matters of high skill and keen vigilance.

Biochemists Learn Tricks
Now, comes the trick learned by two biochemists, T. Nicol and D. L. J. Bilbey, of King's College, London. They took a laboratory - manufactured replica (chemically speaking) of one of the hormones manufactured in abundance by female bodies, which assist in making women feminine.

With techniques too complicated here, they found out what was the normal phagocytic activity in the bodies of male mice. The average phagocytic activity index was 26.

Some of the mice were injected daily with heavy doses of cortisone for one week. Their phagocytic activity index sank to 7, which was more than enough to put them in grave peril from any infection which might be around.

Index Goes Up
Then they were injected daily with the synthetic female hormone, and their phagocytic activity index went up to 46—that is well above what it had been before there was any interference with their body chemistry.

Some mice were not injected with cortisone but were with the female hormone. Their index went up from the normal 26 to 105 which—in the dry words of the scientists — "indicated marked stimulation of phagocytic activity."

The next step is to find out if what happened in mouse chemistry will happen in human chemistry. The scientists suggested it in their report in the technical journal, "Nature."

Soil tests were made on more than 2,300,000 acres of farmland in Illinois during 1956.

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D. O. Hood Named Director of Group

D. O. Hood, president of Columbia Utilities company, was elected a director of the Oregon Independent Telephone association at a joint convention of the Oregon and Washington groups recently in Seattle, Wash.

Columbia Utilities provides telephone service for White City, Camp White, Butte Falls, Eagle Point, Prospect and Shady Cove.

Lambert Miller, Sunnyside, was elected president of the association.

A resolution was passed at convention calling for the Oregon legislature to provide for the inclusion of the cost of removal and relocation of utility facilities on highway projects within the scope of the federal highway act of 1956.

Another resolution called for the elimination of the excise tax on telephone communications. Association members said the tax was discriminatory in that other utility service such as electrical power, gas and water are not required to pay similar taxes.

Fifty-five Oregon independent telephone companies, members of the association, operate 98 1/2 per cent of the 117,000 independent telephones in the state.

The Family Council

Editors note: The Family Council consists of a judge, a psychiatrist, three clergymen, a newspaper editor, a women's editor and two writers. Each article is a summary of an actual report. The Family Council does not give advice, it merely reports on problems that have been dealt with by responsible agencies and counselors.

Ralph C. — Claire wants to live it up.
Claire C. — It was his idea to do more entertaining.

Ralph C. — My wife is getting on my nerves. We've been married six years and have two youngsters. I am making more money than I ever expected to. We could relax and have a good time, but Claire has decided to "live it up."

She wants to go in for entertaining in a big way. That's okay with me. I like people. But why is it necessary to have a nervous collapse before and after each party? If we run out of some particular canape, or if some introduction isn't made according to the book, or if we don't have enough matching glasses, Claire takes a fit. The kids and I have to suffer before and after each party because of all these crises that come up when you entertain.

I tell Claire it's just not worth it. If she can't do it all easily, let's not bother. We're supposed to be doing this for fun.

Claire C. — It was Ralph's idea for us to begin to entertain more. But he just says let's have so-and-so over, and then he washes his hands of the whole business.

The people he wants to have are always the ones a few steps ahead of us financially. Ralph says he needs these people as business contacts. He tells me how important the people are then he pretends disinterest. He says he's doing it all just for sociability.

The entire burden of making a success of our parties rests on me. When we go out to parties at the home of some of these people, everything is done to perfection because they have the means. I have to put out twice

the effort to do things half as well as they do because I just don't have the help or equipment they have. Then Ralph throws it up to me that I am a nervous hostess. Who wouldn't be?

The Council:—Ralph says that Claire wants to live it up. Claire says that Ralph wants to improve his business contacts. Each puts wanting to entertain. Certainly neither of them gets any pleasure from the parties.

The problem appears to be that both Ralph and Claire have some sort of "get ahead" motive and are ashamed about it. This puts them under the additional strain of having to deceive themselves. Ralph claims the parties are just for "fun," but he does hope to use his contacts to some business advantage, but when this becomes the prime motive, the plan defeats itself. Ralph and Claire should agree that their pleasure and the pleasures of the guests come first.

Once the emphasis is placed primarily on enjoyment, Claire

will see that it is not at all necessary to do things up in the style to which her guests are accustomed. They may very well appreciate simplicity—plus genuine sociability.

If Ralph admits his own desire for these parties, he should be willing to give his full cooperation to make them a success.

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