

Too Much Calcium in Body First Shows Up in Eyes, Doctors Claim

By DELOS SMITH
United Press Science Editor
New York—In our milk-guzzling, vitamin-gulping age it is well for every doctor to know that the first and perhaps only direct sign of there being too much calcium in body chemistry will show up in the eyes.



This is on the authority of G. Cogan, professor of ophthalmology at Harvard Medical School, and his assistant, Dr. Philip H. Henneman. They are circulating the news through the medical world.

Its importance is that when too much calcium-in-body chemistry has progressed far enough it is likely to show up painfully and disablingly as bone disease or kidney stones. But when the sign appears in the eyes, the person is not yet sick, the doc-

tors said. They had a dramatic example. This man had been examined medically for vague complaints and his eyes had been found to be "normal." A few months later, he began seeing halos around lights and light hurt his eyes.

Calcium in Corneas
The Harvard eye experts got him then, and found that his corneas were calcified.

In high-speed, magnified photographs this calcification showed up as a gray lace-work. The interior of the eyes could be seen through the openings of the lace and this permitted "surprisingly good visual acuity."

The doctors inferred that the very first eye sign of too much calcium must have been overlooked in the first examination which, they said, can be done "easily." The first sign is a tiny band of grayish inflammation on either side of the cornea.

Their man was no excessive milk drinker but he took a multi-vitamin preparation daily which

contained about 1,000 units of Vitamin D. Milk is, of course, the richest dietary source of calcium and Vitamin D is concerned with preserving calcium in the body.

Hormones Regulate Chemistry
The hormones of the adrenal glands regulate its utilization in body chemistry, and the doctors treated their man by giving him daily doses of the adrenal hormone, cortisone, to supplement the cortisone of his own adrenals which had not been enough to handle the calcium.

But it took a year and a half to clear his corneas of the grayish lace and even then traces of it remained in one eye under magnification which were not visible to the naked eye of the examiner.

The common causes of too much calcium, they reminded in their report to the New England Journal of Medicine, include over-function of the parathyroid glands and "excessive milk and Vitamin D intake." But "mild

Scientists Conduct Exposure Tests

Miami Beach, Fla.—Scientists here have developed a special weather station for outdoor exposure tests.

Manufacturers in all parts of the country utilize the station, conducted by the American Standards Testing Bureau of New York, in order to determine the resistance of their products to heat, sunlight and air.

Paint, enamel and plastic materials are some of the products tested. Officials of the American Standards Testing Bureau said the special Miami weather station was established because of a minimum amount of cloud interference.

hypercalcemia (too much calcium) usually causes no symptoms and is often detected chemically over after the development of bone disease or renal stones.

For that reason their news was news indeed, they said, and "deserves special emphasis."

Competition for Farm Land Great

Urbana, Ill. — Competition for land has become so great, a University of Illinois farm management specialist said, that the only practical way to increase profits may be by "intensifying operations."

W. D. Buddemeier said that in the past farmers have increased their profits merely by farming more land, but now they probably will have to get more out of the same old acres if they want to up their profits.

Buddemeier said good managerial ability and a little capital are needed to carry out a successful land intensification program. He advised farmers who intend to use more fertilizer and livestock without expanding their acreage to consult Farm Bureau authorities first.

The extent to which labor and capital should be used on a given acreage depends directly on the opportunity for increasing profits, Buddemeier said.

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