

Enzymes Which Dissolve Blood Clots Discussed at Conference

Philadelphia—UPI—Enzymes which dissolve blood clots could reduce heart muscle damage from a "heart attack" by as much as 25 to 50 percent if results achieved in animal studies are borne out in man, the American Heart Association was told recently.

Dr. Irwin Nydick said in a report to the association's scientific sessions here that enzymes such as fibrinolysin or plasmin apparently flush away a "sludge" of obstructing material that forms throughout areas of heart muscle deprived of blood and oxygen by the shut-down of a coronary artery.

The result is to permit "re-irrigation and nourishment of the starved muscle," he said. This in turn, diminishes the extent of heart muscle damage and shifts its location to the edges of the heart, lessening the harm done to the muscle's pumping capacity.

Nydick reported on work conducted by a team of scientists at the Sloan-Kettering Institute, research affiliate of Memorial Center, New York.

He said latest experiments produced "even more encouraging results" than those announced by the group at the heart association's meeting last year.

The Sloan-Kettering team, whose members include Drs. Paul Rueggesser, Claude Bouvier, Ramon Abarquez, Eugene Clifton and John La Due, simulated heart attacks in animals by clamping a major branch of the coronary artery network for three hours and then releasing the clamp.

Before the clamp was removed, about half the animals were given plasmin injections in a remote leg. Some days to two weeks later the hearts of all the animals were examined under the microscope and "striking differences" were observed, Nydick said.

"The untreated hearts revealed clotting within the minute vessels and tissue spaces surrounding the muscle fibers themselves, whereas much of this 'sludge' was dissolved away by the enzyme treatment," he said.

Nydick said clearing out the obstructing material allows reirrigation and nourishment of the starved muscle which could not be achieved simply by reopening the block in the large artery supplying blood to the region without enzyme treatment.

He said there was no evidence that the powerful enzyme unfavorably attacked the damage or normal muscle fibers in any way.

Nydick emphasized that the experiments also contradicted

assumptions that heart muscle cells were permanently damaged within a half-hour after interruption of their blood supply. He said significant salvage of the cells could be achieved by the new clot-dissolving treatment even three hours after coronary artery block.

Aim of Treatment

He said treatment with anticoagulants is aimed at preventing complications such as the formation of additional clots, rather than at salvaging tissue deprived of its blood supply by an existing clot.

Dr. Vincent L. Gott reported a group from the University of Minnesota Medical School found a method of stopping the heart temporarily for cardiac surgery by chilling it to 62 degrees Fahrenheit or below.

Gott said the chilling is achieved by sending cold blood through the coronary arteries that feed the heart muscle which brings the heart to a complete standstill.

He said the method has a number of advantages over the method of stopping the heart with drugs which has been used in heart-lung machine operations since 1957. He said the cold blood can be sent through the heart muscle from time to time if desired, preventing oxygen starvation of the muscles.

Tunisia Has Same Problems as U.S. Plaguing Schools

Chicago—UPI—The problems that plague educators in the United States are a headache in Tunisia too.

Twenty-five Tunisian teachers, in this country for a two-month study of American educational methods, testified to that.

The demand for education in their country so far outstrips available schoolroom and teaching facilities that children go to classes in shifts of four hours a day, according to Ailiah Ben Hamida of Tunisia, leader of the Tunisian group.

A 20-room addition was needed by one new school within six months after it opened, Miss Ben Hamida added.

French Pattern—Until last year, she said, Tunisian schools were patterned after those of the French, with seven years of elementary education and six years of secondary schooling. This is the equivalent of four years of high school and two years of college in the U. S.

But Miss Ben Hamida explained that elementary work has been cut to six years while the government has embarked on a "crash program" of building schools and subsidizing teachers' education.

All this may sound painfully familiar to Americans, but there are also differences between Tunisia and the U. S. in the educational field.

For one thing, hockey-playing is no problem in her country, Miss Ben Hamida said. On the contrary, a student is punished for forbidding him to attend school for a few days.

And she added, American-style juvenile delinquency is unknown.

Portland Transit Agreement Reached

Portland—UPI—Portland has survived another transit crisis.

The Rose City Transit Company and City Commissioner William Bowes reached agreement Tuesday on a new pact which assures bus service for two more years.

It calls for the same terms and fares as that of the operating permit which expires Oct. 31.

The pact follows signing of a contract between the company and the Streetcarman's union calling for a 17-cent hourly wage hike over two years.

Bowes will bring the new agreement before the city council Thursday afternoon.

Sean O'Casey was a 37-year-old bricklayer when he decided to become a playwright.

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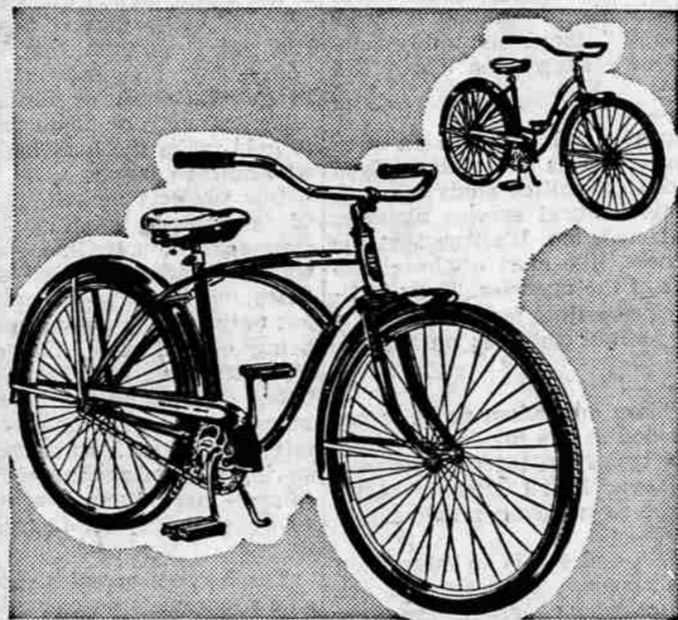
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