

Fat Believed To Help in Slowing Of Blood Clotting

By DELOS SMITH
UPI Science Editor

New York—UPI—This will tell you about the bringing together of two physical facts which few if any physiologists suspected were connected. These facts are: (1) The fat of fat people is in folds or rolls; (2) Human blood contains substances which discourage clotting.

The unlikely sounding bringing together was accomplished by Dr. D. A. Shaw. He found that in those human beings he measured, the thicker the fat rolls the slower the chemical discouraging of blood clotting.

Insurance statistics have long since demonstrated that fat people have shorter life spans than lean people, generally speaking. That is why physicians take emphatic stands against obesity. But the scientific facts backing up the statistical reality have been hard to get.

The central truth in all this is that the untimely blood clot is the prime cause of many heart attacks and "strokes." It also is responsible for various other disorders in blood circulation, some of them grave.

At present Shaw was making no claim that excessive body fat is the cause of clotting in the circulating blood. His findings by research classification are "preliminary," which means they point demandingly toward new avenues for detailed investigations.

Thickness Measured

He did his measuring on 35 men who ranged in age from 18 to 71.

He pinched their rolls of fat and measured the thicknesses with calipers. From each he took samples of blood and by laboratory techniques measured how long it took the individual blood chemistries to dissolve or "digest" clots.

All the men were hospital patients, ill from one or another disturbance affecting the nervous system. Some of these disturbances also involved the heart and blood vessels.

It occurred to Shaw that those vascular disorders might be responsible for longer clot-dissolving times than body fat. He compared clotting times and fat roll thickness of these men and found the same connection between them as existed in the men without vascular troubles.

Much Contradiction
Looking back over the many studies of blood clotting times in a large variety of peoples, Shaw found much contradiction and ambiguity. None of the previous investigators had taken into account the degree of fattening in their patients and this, Shaw suggested, may be why the results didn't agree.

Many things influence the blood chemistry which discourages clotting, including the natural anxiety of a person upon seeing the needle with which a doctor is about to withdraw a sample of his blood. Shaw endeavored to control all these influences in his subjects.

In reporting his findings to the technical journal, "The

Lancet," he granted that the physiological basis for a relationship between body fatness and clot dissolving activity is unknown. He hoped he was stimulating the studies which will turn up the basis.

He suggested that "it is probably futile to seek a single directly responsible mechanism. Body fatness is a function of a highly complex interaction of genetic, metabolic and endocrine factors."

All Forms of Hazing Ruled Out At University

Eugene—UPI—The University of Oregon will not penalize any of the fraternities which engaged in hazing in January, President Arthur S. Flemming announced Wednesday.

But he warned it had better not happen again. Flemming said the university was partly responsible for the hazing because some of its officials made statements which led the fraternities to the conclusion that some types of hazing still were permissible.

"Under the circumstances, I have concluded that the university would be guilty of an act of injustice if it imposed penalties for the hazing," Dr. Flemming said.

Some Forms Used
Despite an anti-hazing policy announced in 1961, one university official later told a group of fraternity leaders he didn't expect all types of hazing would be eliminated immediately, according to a report of Dean of Students Donald DuShane.

DuShane reported that of the 21 fraternities on the campus, "approximately half... conducted programs that involved some forms of hazing."

Flemming said Wednesday he will make sure there is no recurrence. He announced a policy which would abolish "hell-week," and warned that no fraternity is to permit any form of hazing at any time. Any violation, no matter how minor, will be punished by temporary or permanent closure of the house, he warned.

He delegated enforcement of the policy to DuShane with instructions to interpret it literally.

Six Hospitalized In Plant Explosion

Plaquemine, La.—UPI—A hydrocarbon unit in the \$100 million Dow Chemical Co. complex exploded and burned Wednesday night, leaving six persons hospitalized in a night of terror and confusion in this Mississippi river community. The most seriously injured was Guy Comeaux, who received first and second degree burns. The others were admitted for treatment of minor cuts and burns.

The explosion rattled windows in the 24-story state Capitol at Baton Rouge 15 miles to the north.

In Leolaville, a small community half a mile from the plant, Emma Critney said she was knocked off her porch by the blast and her daughter, Dolores, 17, was hysterical.



ADDRESS PLANNED—The moderator of the General Assembly of the United Presbyterian Church in the United States will speak at the First Presbyterian church, Medford, at 7:30 p.m. Thursday. He is Dr. Marshal L. Scott, dean of the Presbyterian Institute of Industrial Relations, Chicago.

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DENIES SOMALI BASES
Moscow—UPI—The Soviet news agency Tass, in a specially authorized statement, denied Wednesday the Soviet Union is seeking bases in Somali for naval ships and submarines.

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