



PUT TOGETHER AGAIN

MEDICINE

Early Treatment Would Eradicate Bright's Disease

BRIGHT'S disease, third leading cause of death today, can be completely eradicated if it is treated in its early acute stages, before it becomes chronic, Dr. Francis D. Murphy of Milwaukee, told the American College of Physicians meeting, basing his opinion on a ten-year study of 136 cases.

Bright's disease, or nephritis, as physicians term it, has become a serious problem because colds and sore throats are not usually considered a factor in causing it. Too often the disease, following such infection of nose and throat passes unnoticed until considerable damage has been done to the kidneys.

"When nephritis becomes chronic, there is little that can be done to forestall the downward trend of the disease," Dr. Murphy said.

Therefore he urged physicians to look for the disease in its early stages when treatment will be successful in curing it. Bright's disease causes more deaths than any other maladies except heart disease and cancer. Its high death-rate can be reduced only by attacking it in its early, acute stages, Dr. Murphy declared.

Science News Letter, May 11, 1935

PHYSIOLOGY

Two Hormones, Twins of Those Known, Found in Pituitary

TWO NEW hormones from the pituitary gland, each a twin to already known pituitary hormones, were reported by Dr. Leo Loeb, of Washington University, St. Louis, in an address to the American College of Physicians following his presentation with the John Phillips Memorial Medal of the College.

The new pituitary hormones act on thyroid and female sex glands, respectively. Scientists had previously recognized a species difference in the extracts from the pituitary that influence thyroid and sex glands. An extract from the pituitary gland of a cow has a stimulating effect on the cow's sex glands but just the opposite effect on the guinea pig's glands, for example.

Investigations conducted by Dr. Loeb during the past two months and reported in Philadelphia for the first time show that this different effect is due to the production by the pituitary of two different hormones with antagonistic effects on female sex glands. In the pituitary glands of cattle, the ovary-stimulating hormone predominates while in pituitary glands of other species of animals the antagonistic hormone predominates.

The presence of these two hormones, where only one was formerly thought to exist, may have a relation to the anti-hormone effect discovered by Dr. J. B. Collip and associates of McGill University, Dr. Loeb said. Dr. Collip and associates have found substances called anti-hormones in the blood of men and other animals that check the effect of the pituitary hormones.

Dr. Loeb's other recent discovery of two thyroid-stimulating hormones from

the pituitary may throw further light on the cause of Graves' disease or exophthalmic goiter, the disease characterized by pop-eyes, rapid pulse and other disturbances. Dr. Loeb and other scientists have been able to produce all the Graves' disease symptoms in healthy animals by giving them doses of thyroid-stimulating pituitary hormone, which suggests that disorder of the pituitary may be a cause of this kind of goiter. Dr. Loeb is now studying the pituitary glands of persons who died of Graves' disease. He hopes to find which of the two thyroid-stimulating pituitary hormones predominate in these glands, and thus may be responsible for the development of Graves' disease.

Science News Letter, May 11, 1935

A person who eats an egg a day probably gets enough Vitamin D for his needs, even if he gets none in other foods, says a Government vitamin authority.

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