

Substance B when injected or given per os causes marked and lasting increases in blood sugar so that we have produced hyperglycemia and glucosuria in normal rabbits at six doses of 0.2 mg. of substance per day. The substance B causes a high-grade dilution of the blood with enormous retention of water and if one takes that dilution into account blood sugar increases amounted to over 800 per cent. The rabbits eventually died, and we are investigating the pathological changes, especially in the pancreas, on which a report will follow later. As the substance B was found in insulin and the latter hormone in a number of organs and therefore probably in food and as it acts per os one naturally suspects that this substance may have something to do with the causation of at least certain forms of diabetes.

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QUOTATIONS

"NARCOSAN" AND DRUG ADDICTION

NEWSPAPERS throughout the country holding membership in the North American Newspaper Alliance carried a story, December 15, concerning the discovery by "Dr." A. S. Horovitz of a new remedy for drug addiction known as "narcosan." Since his arrival on these shores in 1913, Horovitz has been continuously identified with attempts to promulgate cures for all sorts of disorders by mixtures of lipoids and vegetable substances of the nature of non-specific proteins. Included in his records are the Horovitz-Beebe "cure" for cancer, the Merrell proteogens for the cure of practically everything and more recently "narcosan," originally brought out about 1920 under the name of "lipoidal substances." Horovitz's present effort to promote "narcosan" as a cure for narcotic addiction is supported by a clinical investigation by Drs. Alexander Lambert, ex-president of the American Medical Association, and Frederick Tilney, one of the editors of the *Archives of Neurology and Psychiatry*. The paper by these investigators appears in the *New York Medical Journal and Record* for the week of December 17. This paper was rejected by the *Journal of the American Medical Association* because the Council of Pharmacy and Chemistry rejected the product known as "lipoidal substances" in 1921, because up to the present time the product has not been resubmitted and is apparently still of unestablished composition, and because the clinical investigations are not set forth in such a manner as to indicate even ordinary controls, such as might have been secured by treating an equal number of patients with the non-specific proteins alone. Furthermore, on their admittance into the hospital, the patients were given a

cathartic mixture consisting of seven ingredients, including some of those in the compound vegetable cathartic pill and a few others. Nevertheless, the paper was promptly accepted by the *New York Medical Journal and Record*, and simultaneously with its appearance in that periodical, a complete statement, highly exaggerated, was issued by the North American Newspaper Alliance. This statement appeared in three parts: the first, an account of the Lambert clinical investigations; the second, life stories of some of the patients, and the third, a highly sensational account of the life of A. S. Horovitz, omitting, however, all the points in his record to which reference has been made earlier in this comment. As soon as it was learned in the headquarters office that the newspaper publicity mentioned had been released by the North American Newspaper Alliance, a statement was given to the Associated Press defining the position of the American Medical Association headquarters office in this matter. Perhaps time will reveal sufficient basis in the Horovitz discovery to warrant its acceptance; possibly the clinical investigations made by Drs. Lambert and Tilney have been strictly accurate and scientific; maybe something actually worth while will come from this attempt to control drug addiction. Nevertheless, there is a method which has been repeatedly defined by the American Medical Association as the safe and scientific method of introducing a new proprietary. The American Medical Association has established a council which will act promptly in passing on the claims made for such products and on their worthiness.—*Journal of the American Medical Association*.

SCIENTIFIC BOOKS

Colloid and Capillary Chemistry. By HERBERT FREUNDLICH. Translated from the third German edition by H. Stafford Hatfield. New York, E. P. Dutton and Company, 1926. 886 pages, 156 figures.

THIS monumental work has hitherto been available only in the original German, but its value as a classic has long called for a translation. At first it was styled "Kapillarchemie," and capillary chemistry still receives a great deal of attention from the author. However, colloiddally dispersed systems cover more than half the pages of this book.

The physicist will enjoy the author's treatment of the interfaces liquid-gas, liquid-liquid, solid-gas, solid-solid and also the chapters on capillary-electrical phenomena and the properties of interfacial layers. Nor will he be disappointed with the attention given to membrane equilibria and the osmotic pressure of lyophilic sols.