

are reported to have been obtained by Page and Helmer.¹

Renin is secreted by ischemic kidneys,^{5, 6} and hypertensin is afterwards formed in the blood.^{2, 4} Renin is presumably an enzyme and does not act directly on blood vessels but by the intermediation of hypertensin. The hypertensin-precursor in blood was found to increase after nephrectomy and to decrease or disappear after the injection of renin. This fact suggests that there is a slight renin production by normal kidney. Such a production of renin also explains the rise in blood pressure obtained by Govaerts and Muller⁷ by grafting normal kidneys to nephrectomized dogs.

While the pressor substance was found to be formed by the action of swine renin on the sera of horse, swine, cattle or dog, none was formed with human serum. When, however, human renin was used, hypertensin was formed with the serum of any of the above species.

This peculiar specificity of renin leads to the prediction that no pressor response should be obtained in man when swine renin is injected intravenously. Our experience, while limited to sick men, came to confirm this prediction, although hypertensin injected intravenously to the same subjects caused a rise in blood pressure. Since other investigators may have tested this action we are eager to know of further confirmatory evidence.

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EXCHANGE PERIODICALS FROM FOREIGN COUNTRIES

THE note in *SCIENCE*, Vol. 92, November 15, page 452, from the Engineering Societies Library, in regard to the receipt of exchange periodicals from foreign countries (not including the American continents) and the statement that that library has made arrangements to store the periodicals in the country of origin until the end of hostilities, is of great interest to the library of the Marine Biological Laboratory. But is

not this decision, asking that all countries that are at war hold their exchange material until hostilities have ceased, somewhat unnecessary at the present time when, as is the case for this library, periodicals from England, Ireland, Wales, Scotland, Australia, Indo-China, China, Tahiti, South Africa, Dutch Indies, India, Egypt, Syria, Newfoundland, Morocco, Portugal, Japan and Siberia are still coming through regularly, though somewhat delayed, and even a few German periodicals are now arriving again by way of Siberia and Japan? The fact that so many countries are able to get their publications through to us has encouraged this library to take a more opportunistic attitude by not stopping in all cases the shipment of exchange material destined for us. This library has asked all its exchange institutions in countries on the continent of Europe to hold their publications but has not as yet made this request to the other countries mentioned above in the hope that the necessity for this may not arise. If and when the necessity arises, a request to have the publications held back will be sent. This is more troublesome and perhaps entails risk, but it appeals to us as a practical method. The above has no reference to the *paid subscriptions* held by this library in foreign countries outside of the Americas, but, in general, the same method for securing the subscriptions continuously or at a later date has been applied.

PRISCILLA B. MONTGOMERY

ANTIQUE GALENICALS

WHILE our British colleagues are deserving of deep sympathy and commiseration in these dark days, one can not feel sorry about their difficulties in obtaining buchu leaves, seneca root, jalap, krameria, galsanium seed, black catechu, aconite, and calumba root, as noted in *SCIENCE*, October 25, p. 373. Why such antique galenicals are still used by British physicians is hard to understand unless it be on the basis of steadfast British tradition. It seems that if this war has no other good effect, it may at least serve to modernize some features of British therapeutics.

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SCIENTIFIC BOOKS

MATHEMATICAL PAPERS OF SIR WILLIAM ROWAN HAMILTON

The Mathematical Papers of Sir William Rowan Hamilton, Vol. 2, Dynamics. Edited by A. W. CONWAY and A. J. MCCONNELL. xv + 656 pp.

⁴ E. Braun-Menendez, J. C. Fasciolo, L. F. Leloir and J. M. Muñoz, *Jour. Physiol.*, 98: 283, 1940.

⁵ K. G. Kohlstaedt and I. H. Page, *Proc. Soc. Exp. Biol. and Med.*, 43: 136, 1940.

Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. New York: Macmillan. 1940. 50 sh.

THIS impressive book is the second volume of Hamilton's collected papers, the first volume of which

⁶ L. F. Leloir, J. M. Muñoz, E. Braun-Menendez and J. C. Fasciolo, *Rev. Soc. Arg. Biol.*, 16: 75, 1940.

⁷ P. Govaerts and P. Muller, *C. R. Soc. Biol.*, 131: 1311, 1939.