

Letters to the Editor

The Effect of DDT on Cutaneous Sensations in Man

A group of 32 students of Yenching University volunteered for a study of the effect of DDT on cutaneous sensations in the skin when kept in constant contact with this agent. Each student wore a piece of cheesecloth (3 × 4 cm.) saturated with a solution of DDT or mixture of this agent, on the inner surface of one forearm and another piece containing only the diluent on the other arm as a control. The cloths were put on corresponding areas on both sides, 6 cm. above the lowest transverse furrow of the wrist. Cutaneous sensations of the covered areas have been followed through a period of five weeks. The tactile sensation was tested by calibrated Von Frey's hairs, and the pain, cold, and heat sensations by spot distribution.

Students were divided into groups of four or five each, and each group was dressed with a different concentration or mixture of DDT. While no remarkable difference in pain, cold, and heat sensations could be detected, the solution of DDT in olive oil or mixture with vaseline (petrolatum) has been found to desensitize the tactile sensation in most cases, as shown in Table 1. The minimal pressure that would arouse the tactile sensation of the skin in contact with the olive oil solution or vase-

TABLE 1

Diluent	% DDT	No. of cases showing desensitized tactile sensation	No. of cases showing sensitized tactile sensation	No. of cases showing no effect
Olive oil	20	3	0	1
Olive oil	10	3	0	1
Olive oil	5	2	1	1
Vaseline (petrolatum)	20	3	0	0
"	10	3	0	1
"	5	0	0	4
Talc powder	10	1	0	4
None	100	0	0	4

line mixture of DDT was 1-2.5 grams per square centimeter higher than the control. These results indicate that oil facilitates the penetration of DDT into the skin.

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Arginine-free Diets and Intestinal Synthesis of Arginine

The white rat is able to synthesize sufficient arginine for moderate growth, reproduction, and partial lactation (H. L. Williams and E. M. Watson, *Rev. Canad. Biol.*, 1944, 3, 426). The possibility that arginine is one of the amino acids which C. J. Martin (*Proc. Soc. exp. Biol. Med.*, 1944, 55, 182) believes to be synthesized within the intestinal tract led to the following investigation.

The stock diet of the colony of albino rats was Fox

Chow. The arginine-free diet was prepared as reported earlier by Williams and Watson and, when modified by the addition of 2 per cent sulfasuxidine, was supplemented with 2-me-1,4-naphthoquinone (50 mg./kg. diet), biotin concentrate (200 µg. No. 1,000/kg.), but not with folic acid as employed by Martin.

Because of the lack of available chemicals, this series was restricted to three animals on each of the arginine-free diets. The average weights of these animals while on the test diets are shown in Table 1.

TABLE 1
EFFECT OF ARGININE-FREE DIETS ON WEIGHTS OF MALE WHITE RATS

Weeks	Arginine-free diet	Arginine-free diet + sulfasuxidine
	grams	grams
1	151	145
2	147	138
3	147	138
4	149	137
5	150	138
6	152	142
7	157	140
8	162	145
9	152	138
	145	126

Although the rats failed to gain weight on either diet, possibly due to the restricted intake, there was no indication of the dramatic loss of weight known to accompany acute amino-acid deficiency either by the groups or by individual animals. None of the animals died. Weights, dry weights, and arginine content of the various organs from animals of both series obtained at autopsy compared favorably with comparable data from control animals of the same age fed Fox Chow, in confirmation of findings of Williams and Watson. Thus it is suggested that the intestinal tract is not the source of the arginine synthesized by the rat.

This work was supported by a research fellowship in nutrition from Swift Canadian Company, Ltd.

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The Successful Transfer of Ovaries Between Dogs of Different Breed

For a number of years, experiments have been in progress in an endeavor to transplant ovaries between dogs of different breed. The object of the present note is to report two successful transfers of this type and to record preliminary observations on the behavior of the recipient animals. Early unsuccessful experiments were carried out without regard to the physiological status of the dogs, and the present successful transfers appear to be directly related to the use of recipients in oestrus.

The operative procedure employed is extremely simple. After incising the capsule, the ovary is removed at the