

and *B. aerogenes* were inhibited. These clinical and laboratory findings are being reported elsewhere in detail (4, 5).

Vitamin D (activated ergosterol) is chemically ergosterol (i.e. characterized by the phenanthrene ring), the antirachitic property being due to intramolecular changes (1).

Since ergosterol (nonactivated) added to culture media inhibited tubercle bacilli and *Staph. aureus*, thus excluding the antirachitic factor as being responsible for the antibacterial action, we can assume that the chemical structure of vitamin D and ergosterol is responsible.

Cholesterol (a phenanthrene-related substance) added to culture media also inhibited tubercle bacilli and *Staph. aureus*.

Substances related to phenanthrene are very com-

mon in nature (e.g. sex hormones, heart glycosides, cholesterol, ergosterol, vitamin D, etc.) (2).

The substances reported here—cholesterol, ergosterol, and vitamin D—have in common the phenanthrene ring and the antibacterial action.

In vivo, in preliminary experiments, tuberculosis in guinea pigs was suppressed by injection of large doses of vitamin D (viosterol, 5,500,000 units D or more).

Bile salts are also phenanthrene related and have been known to have "bacteriostatic action on some species of microorganism" (3).

References

1. BILLS, C. E. *The vitamins*. American Medical Association, 1939. P. 447.
2. FIESER, L. F. *The chemistry of natural products related to phenanthrene*. New York: Reinhold, 1936.
3. GOODMAN, L., and GILMAN, A. *The pharmacological basis of therapeutics*. New York: Macmillan, 1941. P. 795.
4. RAAB, W. *Dis. Chest*, 1946, **12**, 68-71.
5. RAAB, W. *Dis. Chest*, in press.

News and Notes

Valy Menkin, assistant professor of pathology at Duke University School of Medicine, has been appointed associate professor of experimental pathology in the newly created Department of Surgical Research at Temple University Medical School, Philadelphia.

Harold Hotelling was guest of honor at a testimonial dinner given 3 May by the Statistical Techniques Group, New York Chapter, American Statistical Association. Dr. Hotelling is leaving Columbia University at the end of the academic year to become professor of mathematical statistics at the University of North Carolina.

On behalf of the Group, Helen M. Walker presented gifts to Prof. and Mrs. Hotelling. The chairman, Irving Lorge, introduced the distinguished visitors who came to honor Dr. Hotelling. Among the speakers were: P. C. Mahalanobis, of Presidency College, Calcutta, India; Stuart Rice, chairman of the Statistical Commission of the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations; and Dean Pegram, of the Graduate Faculties of Columbia University.

Prof. Hotelling reviewed the changes in statistical theory and techniques that were developed during the 15 years of his professorship at Columbia University.

Fritz Lenz, former professor of eugenics at the University of Berlin and long-time editor of the *Archiv für Rassen- und Gesellschafts-Biologie*, is at Obernfeld bei Lubbecke, not far from Osnabrück in the

British zone of occupation. All of his family survived the war.—Paul Popenoe (American Institute of Family Relations).

Roger Adams, head of the Chemistry Department, University of Illinois, was presented the Theodore William Richards Medal of the American Chemical Society's Northeastern Section at a meeting Thursday evening, 9 May, in Huntington Hall, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge.

James Bryant Conant, president of Harvard University, reviewed the life and scientific achievements of Prof. Adams, who is a native of Boston and a Harvard graduate. Prof. Foster, head of the Chemistry Department in the State Teachers College, Framingham, Massachusetts, and Section chairman, presented the medal.

Norman W. Pirie, virus physiologist at the Rothamsted Experiment Station, England, is at the Worcester Foundation for Experimental Biology as a fellow of the Foundation.

Ottavio Munerati, well known for his genetical studies on sugar beets and other crops, writes that he has continued as director of the R. Stazione Sperimentale di Bieticoltura at Rovigo, Italy. Dr. Munerati is anxious to renew contacts with scientists in the United States. During the war he was able to publish only one paper: "Duration of the beet

cycle" (*Monthly Bull. agric. Sci. Pract.*, 1942, **33**, 177T-214T).—*G. H. Coons* (Bureau of Plant Industry, Beltsville, Maryland).

Icie Macy Hoobler, of Detroit, director of the research laboratory of the Children's Fund of Michigan, will receive the Francis P. Garvan Medal honoring women in chemistry, it is announced by the American Chemical Society. The gold medal will be presented to Dr. Hoobler at the Society's 110th national meeting in Chicago in September.

The Garvan Medal is the latest of a long series of honors won by Dr. Hoobler, whose achievements have made her one of Detroit's outstanding scientists. She was the first woman ever to be chairman of an American Chemical Society Division, being elected to that office by the Division of Biological Chemistry in 1930, and the first woman to head a Local Section of the Society, serving as chairman of the Detroit Section in 1930. During the war Dr. Hoobler was a member of the National Research Council's Food and Nutrition Board.

Charles E. Teeter, Jr., professor of physics and chemistry at Cambridge Junior College and formerly staff member at M.I.T. Radiation Laboratory, has been appointed research associate at Boston University. He hopes to organize an acoustics research laboratory, covering the fields of supersonics and audio-acoustics.

N. P. Dubinin, professor at the Institute of Cytology of the Academy of Sciences of USSR, Oboukh Street No. 6, Moscow, USSR, has written as follows to the Department of Zoology, Columbia University:

We are badly in need of scientific literature published in the United States. You would do a tremendous favor to the science of genetics in the USSR by asking all American colleagues working in genetics, including plant and animal breeding, to send us their publications issued during the war years.

All publications should be sent directly to Prof. Dubinin.

Capt. Curtis W. Sabrosky, U. S. Public Health Service, Office of Malaria Control in War Areas, formerly assistant professor of entomology at Michigan State College, has been appointed associate entomologist in the Division of Insect Identification of the U. S. Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine, Washington, D. C.

Harry Eagle has been appointed adjunct professor of bacteriology in The Johns Hopkins School of Hygiene and Public Health. Dr. Eagle will retain his active status as senior surgeon in the U. S. Public Health Service, and his laboratory will be designated

as the Laboratory of Experimental Therapeutics of the U. S. Public Health Service and The Johns Hopkins School of Hygiene and Public Health, supported jointly by the two agencies.

George W. White, professor of geology at the Ohio State University, has been appointed state geologist of Ohio. He succeeds Wilber Stout, who retired 1 May after having served the State Geological Survey for 35 years, the last 18 as state geologist.

S. R. M. Reynolds, Department of Embryology, Carnegie Institution of Washington, Baltimore, was elected a membre honoraire of the Société Française de Gynécologie at the meeting of this society on 21 January 1946.

William Bloom, professor of anatomy at the University of Chicago, has resigned from his position as chairman of the Department, effective 1 July 1946, at which time he will become a member of the recently established Institute of Radiobiology and Biophysics at the University. He will continue as professor in the Department of Anatomy. Peter P. H. De Bruyn, who has been promoted to an associate professorship, will assume the position of chairman of the Department.

Clyde Kohn, Department of Geography, Northwestern University, Evanston, is the new secretary of the National Council of Geography Teachers.

G. T. Nightingale has resigned from the Hawaiian Pineapple Company, where he has been conducting plant physiological research during the past seven and one-half years, and has accepted appointment as head of the Department of Plant Physiology at the Pineapple Research Institute of Hawaii, Honolulu 2.

Recent Deaths

Frances Louise Long, 60, formerly ecologist at the Carnegie Institution of Washington, died in Santa Barbara, California, on 17 March.

Simon Flexner, 83, director emeritus of the Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research and authority on meningitis, infantile paralysis, and dysentery, died on 2 May.

Rollin H. Stevens, 78, president of the recently-organized Detroit Institute of Cancer Research, died in Detroit on 17 May.

Joseph Sergi Kasanin, director of the psychiatry department of Mount Zion Hospital and former president of the American Orthopsychiatric Association, died on 4 May in San Francisco, California. Dr. Kasanin was author of *Language and thought in schizophrenia*.