concentrations above equilibrium values, but the HD was less concentrated than that produced by the first method.

Wender, *et al.* (*13*) have prepared very pure HD by reacting D_2O with lithium aluminum hydride. Data for HD preparation by rectification of liquid H_2-HD-D_2 mixtures are given by Clusius and Starke (*3a*).

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A Study of the Albumin and Globulin Content in Postpartum Plasma and Its Use in Rheumatoid Arthritis

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It was first reported from this clinic that a sustained remission can be produced in rheumatoid arthritis by the administration of suitable amounts of postpartum plasma (*1*). A review of the literature failed to reveal any data on the use of postpartum plasma in rheumatoid arthritis. The remission produced was characterized by an improved sense of well-being, a brighter mental outlook, increased appetite, a disappearance of joint symptoms, a gain in weight, restoration to normal of the microcytic anemia and albumin globulin ratio. In general, the characteristic response was a striking clinical improvement. There were no toxic effects, and in 320 postpartum plasma transfusions there were no cases of homologous serum hepatitis. The longest remission following cessation of therapy was 16 weeks and the shortest was 3 weeks. Postpartum plasma is an available and comparatively inexpensive form of therapy. During the investigation the author noted that the postpartum plasma had a greenish tint, slightly opalescent and homogeneously distributed.

TABLE 1

Postpartum Plasma Proteins (*4*)

Pool	Albumin mg %	Globulin mg %	Total protein mg%
1	2.1	2.8	4.9
2	2.1	2.2	4.3
3	2.7	1.8	4.5
4	2.4	2.3	4.7
5	2.0	2.1	4.1
6	2.1	2.6	4.7
7	2.1	2.0	4.1
8	2.5	1.6	4.1
9	1.7	2.4	4.1
10	1.9	2.1	4.0
11	2.2	2.3	4.5
12	2.0	2.2	4.2
Average	2.15	2.20	4.35

Table 1 reports the albumin and globulin content of the plasma obtained from 96 mothers after delivery. Each pool represents the pooled plasma of eight mothers.

Despite the hypoproteinemia, the mothers from whom this plasma was taken presented no anemia or edema. The typical average protein value was 4.35 mg % with an albumin globulin ratio of 0.9. The lack of correlation between plasma protein levels and edema was striking. A marked hypoalbuminemia was also observed and yet no impaired hepatic or renal function could be demonstrated. The postpartum plasma proteins reported here apparently resemble the pattern noted in the maternal sera at or near term (*3*). This similarity may provide an explanation for the efficacy of postpartum plasma in rheumatoid arthritis. The occurrence of pregnancy in patients with rheumatoid arthritis produces a partial or complete remission in a high percentage of cases (*2*).

At present there is no clear explanation of the ameliorating effect of postpartum plasma in the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis. There is suggestive evidence that this behavior is not due solely to a steroidal factor.

Further study of postpartum plasma will be reported.

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The Action of Pectinase Solutions on Sections of Acetone-fixed Human Tissues: A Preliminary Note

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The action of enzymes on tissue sections is a source of chemical information. It has been found that solutions of diastase remove glycogen (*5*). The usefulness of the procedure is limited by impurity of the enzyme preparations and by complexity of the substrate (*2, 6*). This paper introduces commercial pectinase as an enzyme active on suitably fixed human tissues, and discusses the validity of the information derived from its use.

Thin pieces of human tissue are fixed in ice-cold ace-