

normal cats and from cats undergoing convulsions due to thujone or electrical stimulation. Such extracts, when injected into normal cats or rabbits, caused marked constitutional symptoms due to cardiac depression but were without specific convulsant effect on the central nervous system. The claims of Kroll were therefore not substantiated.

9636

The Cure of Canine Blacktongue with Nicotinic Acid.*

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It has been reported by Elvehjem and coworkers¹ that canine blacktongue produced by subsistence on a diet of the Goldberger type is cured dramatically by administration of nicotinic acid. When this communication appeared we had 2 dogs exhibiting chronic blacktongue produced by maintenance on a slight modification of Goldberger's diet No. 123.² The modification consisted in the omission of the cowpeas and use of a slightly greater amount of casein. The disease, as exhibited by our animals, was characterized by poor appetite, progressive loss of weight, vermilion bands on the upper lips, general reddening of the oral mucosa, and, in one of the dogs, by persistent diarrhea. The vermilion bands on the lips and the reddening of the oral mucosa disappeared and reappeared repeatedly.

Presumably, the reason that the disease took a chronic rather than the acute form more commonly observed when using the Goldberger diets was the presence of a greater than usual amount of the antiblacktongue factor in the particular sample of corn used in our ration. This modified diet had been previously found to produce acute blacktongue.³

* The expenses of this study were defrayed by a grant from the Rockefeller Foundation.

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¹ Elvehjem, C. A., Madden, R. J., Strong, F. M., and Wooley, D. W., *J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, 1937, **59**, 1767.

² Goldberger, J., Wheeler, G. A., Lillie, R. D., and Rogers, L. M., *U. S. Public Health Rep.*, 1928, **43**, 657.

³ Street, H. R., Doctor's thesis, 1936, University of Minnesota.

The 2 dogs were treated with nicotinic acid hydrochloride obtained from the Eastman Kodak Company. It was given by mouth, the dosage being approximately 5 mg. per kilo of body weight per day.

There was a prompt resumption of normal appetite in both dogs and an immediate and sustained increase in body weight. The vermilion bands on the upper lips and the reddening of the oral mucosa disappeared and did not return. The watery diarrhea exhibited by one of the dogs disappeared. The body weight curves are shown in Fig. 1.

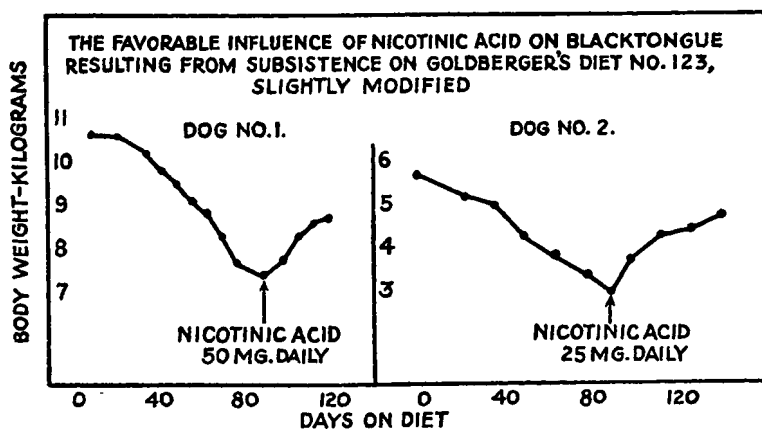


FIG. 1.

Conclusion. The finding that nicotinic acid corrects the deficiency of the Goldberger blacktongue-producing diet is confirmed.

9637

Alteration in the Immunological Specificity of Fibrinogen by the Action of Fibrinolysin of the Hemolytic Streptococcus.

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It has been shown by Garner and Tillett¹ that if fibrinogen is incubated with hemolytic streptococcus fibrinolysin for a brief period, the fibrinogen can no longer be changed to fibrin upon the

¹ Garner, B. L., and Tillett, W. S., *J. Exp. Med.*, 1934, **60**, 255.