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Use of B-Proteus OX19 Agglutination in Diagnosis of Cancer.

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In a recent study the sera of pregnant women uniformly were found to contain a high titer of agglutinins for B-proteus OX19. In the course of that study[1] it appeared that the sera of women with malignant neoplastic disorders likewise strongly agglutinated proteus organisms. Even though the reaction was non-specific, yet it was believed that the agglutination test often might provide evidence for the existence of cancer.

For this reason the titer of B-proteus OX19 agglutinins* was measured[2,3] in the sera of 30 normal women, 27 with mammary carcinoma, and 3 with carcinoma of the cervix. The diagnosis of carcinoma in each instance was confirmed by microscopic examination of biopsied sections.

The results of this study failed to indicate any difference between the sera of the two groups (Table I). Of the 30 sera taken from persons having cancer, 14 gave positive agglutinations with B-proteus OX19, the titer ranging from 1:20 to 1:160 (only one serum agglutinated as high as 1:160). Of the control group, 21 sera showed positive reactions, the titers ranging from 1:20 to 1:80.

Conclusion. By the methods used, there was no evidence that the agglutination of B-proteus OX19 antigen would be of value in determining the presence of cancer.

TABLE I.
The Agglutination Titer of the Sera Studied for B-Proteus OX19.

	Titers				
	0	1:20	1:40	1:80	1:160
Control individuals	9	7	9	5	0
Patients with mammary or cervical carcinoma	16	6	5	2	1

1 Gratch, I., *Am. J. Surg.*, 1943, **60**, 411.
* Lederle Laboratory antigen.
2 Welch, H., *Am. J. Pub. Health*, 1937, **27**, 141 (Yearbook).
3 Welch, H., and Mickle, F. L., *Am. J. Pub. Health*, 1936, **26**, 248.

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Effect of Cooling Isolated Parts upon the Comfort of Man Resting in Hot Humid Environment.*

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Hill[1] and Kuno and Ikeuchi[2] inhibited sweating in human subjects by cooling isolated portions of the body. They made no attempt to correlate the temperature of the bath cooling the part, the temperature and humidity of the environment, and the size of the area cooled, with the quantity of sweat and the comfort of the subjects. Nor were attempts made to evaluate the efficiency of

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1 Hill, L., *J. Physiol.*, 1921, **54**, 137.
2 Kuno, G., and Ikeuchi, K., *J. Orient. Med.*, 1928, **9**, 53.