

### Recent Discovery Isolates Bacteria Hitherto Invisible

The Northwestern University Medical School has issued a bulletin by Dr. Arthur I. Kendall, professor of research bacteriology, giving full details for the preparation of K medium for the isolation and cultivation of bacteria in the filterable state.

In a lecture before a group of scientists and physicians at the McKinlock campus on July 22, Dr. Kendall made the first announcement of the discovery of a new method for the isolation of bacteria which hitherto have remained invisible. This was the development of a culture medium, which will change bacteria from invisible to visible form.

The discovery was described by colleagues of Dr. Kendall as "startling as those of Pasteur," since it opened the way for a more thorough and exact knowledge of such diseases as infantile paralysis, influenza, rheumatism and sleeping sickness.

#### Employ Animal Tissue

In the new bulletin issued yesterday by the medical school, Dr. Kendall describes in detail how the K mediums are made from the tissue of the animal or human body, extracted with 95 percent alcohol. Intestine has been used chiefly for this purpose, although Dr. Kendall points out that brain, liver, kidney, spleen and heart have been used.

"Hog intestine," he writes, "has been distinctly more suitable than rabbit intestine and rabbit intestine has appeared to be more favorable than dog intestine. Human intestine which was not available when early studies were made is under investigation at present."

After giving minute details of the preparation of the mediums and commenting upon aspects of their use, Dr. Kendall reaches the following conclusions:

#### K Mediums Valuable

"The K mediums, protein rich and peptone poor, have afforded a direct method of approach to the purview of three highly important aspects of bacteriology which are mutually related and independent:

"First, (theoretical) it appears to be a biological fact that many bacteria can, and do, exist in two states, filterable and non-filterable.

"Second, (clinical) bacteria may be isolated from the blood stream of patients suffering from diseases that have hitherto proved difficult or refractory to cultivation.

"Third, (intrinsic) homologous bacteria may be cultivated both from bacteriophage and from Besredka antivirus.

#### Reasonable Explanations

"From the biological point of view, this demonstration of the filterable and non-filterable states of microbic existence not only opens new fields for exploration, it also offers reasonable explanations for many hitherto suspected, but unconfirmed phenomena of microbic activity.

"Thus bacteria growing in K medium from stock cultures, thereby undergoing change from non-filterable to the filterable state, not only are separable by filtration into those not cultivable in ordinary mediums, (filterable forms) but also tend to differentiate readily into 'smooth' and 'rough' types (the non-filterable forms), which may be separated by plating directly upon agar mediums. Also, the filterable forms, recultivated upon agar, often may be separated into 'smooth' and 'rough' types."

Mrs. Stanley Olmstead, with her children Eleanor and Stanley, Jr., of Danville spent last week with her mother, Mrs. Robert Swaim of 701 Laurel avenue, while Mr. Olmstead was in camp.

#### VISITS SISTER

Roman Selzer, son of Mr. and Mrs. John W. Selzer, 1601 Walnut avenue, and Leo Desento also of Wilmette spent last week in Detroit, Mich., with Mr. Selzer's sister and brother-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Dethorne. Mr. and Mrs. Dethorne returned to Wilmette also and will spend a few days here.

Mr. and Mrs. Harry Jacobi, 1935 Michigan avenue, and Mr. and Mrs. Oliver Salinger of Chicago took the Great Lakes cruise on the North American to Buffalo, N. Y., last week.

Miss Pauline McCoy, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Charles S. McCoy of 730 Ashland avenue, and her fiancé, Robert S. Cook, are leaving for Minocqua, Wis., this week to join Miss McCoy's family at their country home.

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