

Vitamin C in Pulmonary Tuberculosis

PHYSIOLOGICAL properties of Vitamin C such, among others, as its action on vascular permeability, its role in intoxication and in tissue respiration and its action on formative cells, suggest its application in Pulmonary Tuberculosis therapy. Some useful work has already been done in this field. A comprehensive study on the relation between Vitamin C and pulmonary tuberculosis is being carried on in this Department by Dr. S. K. Roy and the results already obtained are encouraging.

A study of the urinary excretion of Vitamin C by the method of Harris and Ray¹ as later modified,² proved that the system is highly unsaturated with Vitamin C in pulmonary tuberculosis cases. Fig. 1 gives a picture of

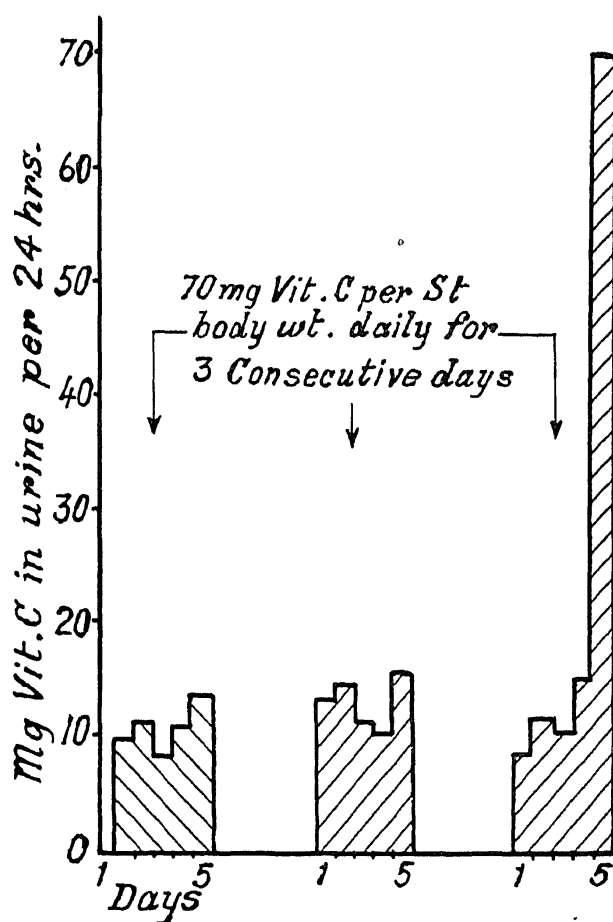


FIG. 1

this state of unsaturation. Administration of 70 mg. of Vitamin C per kg. of body weight for three consecutive days failed to saturate the body in most cases of pulmonary tuberculosis. In hæmoptysis, Vitamin C excretion falls rapidly and rises with the stoppage of hæmoptysis.

Administration of 350 mg. of Vitamin C daily to pulmonary tuberculosis patients, makes a decided improvement in the general blood picture, sedimentation rate, von Bonsdorff's count and Houghton's index.

The investigation is being continued.

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¹ *Lancet*, 1935, 1, 71.

² *Ibid.*, 1935, 2, 1399.

Supernumerary Chromosomes in Para-Sorghum

A CYTOLOGICAL examination of a number of plants of *Sorghum purpuero-sericeum* Ashers et Schwenf, grown at the Imperial Sugarcane Breeding Station, Coimbatore, from seeds received from Kew as originally collected from the Sudan, showed that the chromosome number in this species of *Sorghum* varies from $2n = 10$ to $2n = 14$. The haploid set of 5 which was also found in the two other para-Sorghums examined, *S. versicolor* Anderss and *S. dimidiatum* Stapf. could be easily identified in plants of *S. purpuero-sericeum* with 10 chromosomes, by their different lengths and the nature of their attachment constrictions (Fig. 1). A pair



FIG. 1

Mitotic metaphase in *S. purpuero-sericeum*

$2n = 10$

$\times 2700$

of nucleolar chromosomes possessing the characteristic satellite could be easily distinguished. The extra chromosomes in plants having more than 10 chromosomes are found to be identical with the smallest or fifth chromosome in length