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Chlorophyll, Green Drug of All Trades

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CHLOROPHYLL, THE SAME GREEN COLOR

You see in grass on your lawn, in leaves of all plants, will soon be a much demanded drug in your medicine cabinet. Scientists tell you to use it for Johnny's scraped knee, for your own sore gums, for cabbage smell in your kitchen, or for Sally's poison ivy rash.

In recent years, green leaf pigment has been found to possess the ability to heal and deodorize. It has added to its reputation as the catalyst involved in photosynthesis and has horned in on the medical field to claim honors in company with penicillin and aureomycin.

Evades Explanation

At first chlorophyll fought hard for recognition, and many doctors and dentists have remained skeptical of its amazing qualities. Quack chlorophyll products guaranteeing correction of every ailment from beriberi to mental strain and advertising the powers of "trapped sunlight" increased the public's hesitancy to accept it. All scientists could point to was their experimental evidence, without giving a concrete explanation as to why it all happened.

Producer of a chlorophyll substance to take odors out of the air admitted a few years ago that he didn't know why a bottle of solution, slowly filtered through a wick into a roomful of stale or reeking air could make things more comfortable. The firm knew more about smells than chlorophyll (it has a 5,000 volume library on smells).

Chlorophyll's list of accepted accomplishments has grown immensely. Dentists use it to accelerate healing, control infection and stimulate normal cell growth in damaged tissues. It has been helpful in curing such persistent mouth diseases as pyorrhea and gingivitis. After a tooth has been extracted, treatment with chlorophyll means faster healing and less chance of infection. Toothpaste containing chlorophyll not only cleanses but deodorizes and heals as well.

Deoderizes Zoo

Just as chlorophyll deoderizes one's mouth, it also rids one's whole body of odor, if taken internally. In proper dosage, it is non toxic, well tolerated and apparently doesn't affect digestive activities. The green stuff has been used to conquer a variety of smells, lion houses of the Bronx Zoo, the board room of J. P. Morgan & Co., homemakers' bathrooms, basements and kitchens.

For various skin diseases, second and third degree burns, intestinal diseases, indolent ulcers and infections and wounds of all kinds, chlorophyll is a great aid. It was first used during the last war in military hospitals to treat badly contaminated compound fracture cases. Patients in adjoining wards turned green with envy as they heard of stoppage of draining, rapid healing and sensed the disappearance of unpleasant odors. They asked that they, too, be treated with the "green medicine."

Promotes Growth

Used to heal a wound, chlorophyll cleanses, rapidly promotes growth of fine, firm granulation tissue, and stops pus formation. Skin isn’t irritated by it, and the green coloring material doesn’t stain skin permanently.

You’re probably wondering just how this green wonder drug works. You know that in the plant kingdom chlorophyll plays a role equal and comparable to that played in the animal kingdom by hemoglobin; that it affects nutrition and synthesis of vitamins in plants.

As a cell stimulant, chlorophyll increases cell metabolism. This is why such fine, firm granulation tissue forms and why growth of epithelium tissue is speeded up. Although it doesn’t kill bacteria, it prevents many of them from growing. Since the life span of an individual bacterium is short, and many of them can’t reproduce in the presence of chlorophyll, infectious tissue rapidly becomes almost free of offending organisms.

Chlorophyll changes metabolism of malodorous substances and neutralizes these substances of either neutral, acid or base reactions. Used to kill normal mouth and body odors, it is also useful for odors resulting from illness and internal infection until the cause is determined and corrected.

Has Relatives

Less than a century ago, chlorophyll’s chemical similarity to hemoglobin was suggested. It wasn’t until 1911 that the ball started rolling toward present knowledge of this substance. Among its major components were identified "chlorophyll A" and "chlorophyll B"; carotene (precursor of vitamin A), and xanthophyll, a yellow coloring material.

Now fields of stinging nettle, spinach, alfalfa, bluegrass and cowpeas give you, the homemaker, means to better the health of your family and to make your home a more pleasant place to live.