

among vitamin B₂-deficient rats, but not on an extensive scale.

The above would indicate in outline the complexity of what is called 'vitamin B₂'. At least four factors appear to be involved—the flavine, the heat-stable factor, the anti-dermatitis factor and the anti-cataract factor, though it is not improbable that two or more of them may be identical. We would suggest that provisionally the term 'vitamin B₂' be reserved for the entire complex, which supplements the usual vitamin B₂-deficient diet for the promotion of good growth in rats. The other factors may be indicated by their special characteristics or methods of assay—for example, flavine, anti-dermatitis factor, anti-cataract factor, etc.

We shall, perhaps, know then where we are.

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² Guha and Biswas, *Current Science*, **3**, 300; 1935. *Ber. deutsch. Chem. Gesell.*, in press.

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⁴ Booher, Blodgett and Page, *J. Biol. Chem.*, **107**, 599; 1934.

⁵ Elvehjem and Koehn, *NATURE*, **134**, Dec. 29, 1934.

⁶ Langston and Day, *Southern Med. J.*, **26**, 128; 1933.

Reproduction and Cancer

PROF. E. C. DODDS and Dr. J. W. Cook¹ have published much information regarding the chemical and pharmacological relationship between the sex hormones such as œstrin and certain carcinogenic hydrocarbons. They have established in those respects an interesting connexion between the growth changes of the uterus and those observed in certain types of cancer.

There are other interesting facts concerning the two processes. Thus carbon monoxide gas renders mice sterile², when breathed in concentrations (0.25 per cent) which do not interfere with the general growth of the body of mice acclimatised gradually; in the same concentration the gas retards both rate of growth of mouse carcinoma No. 63 (Bashford's tumour) and development of tar cancer³.

Again, embryonic skin of mouse is—equally with placental tissue—the most potent agent in rendering mice immune to transplantable and spontaneous tumours⁴; it is possible that this epithelium manufactures 'immune bodies' as the result of œstrogenic and uterine activity. The interesting question is why these 'immune bodies' should be most concentrated in the embryonic skin as compared with other embryonic tissues; it may be due to the origin of the skin from ectoderm which in the early stages lies nearest to the uterine decidua, a tissue influenced by œstrin.

If œstrin is responsible, directly or indirectly, for production of natural immunity, then we should expect cancer to be most prevalent when the production of œstrin ceases. This is the case, at any rate in the female, since cancer is most prevalent after the menopause.

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¹ Ann. Rep. Brit. Emp. Cancer Campaign, **11**, 12; 1934.

² *Quart. J. Exp. Physiol.*, **24**, 271; 1934.

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Raman Spectrum of Gaseous Carbon Disulphide

The $\Delta\nu=655$ cm.⁻¹ Raman band of carbon disulphide was photographed, the substance being in the state of vapour. Fig. 1 shows a spectrogram taken with a glass F/6 two-prism thermostated spectrograph, using a 60 cm. vapour column at about 4.5 atm. pressure, irradiated by a mercury arc, the radiation from which was filtered through a dilute solution of potassium chromate to cut off the ultra-violet, avoiding photochemical decomposition and visible fluorescence of the vapour.

The exposure of the spectrogram reproduced was 100 hours on Agfa Isochrom plate, during which the 'Telex' glass Raman tube, air-freed and containing some purified carbon disulphide liquid in its tail annex, was maintained thermostatically at 100° C., the irradiated portion and the sealed-in plane-parallel window at slightly higher temperatures.

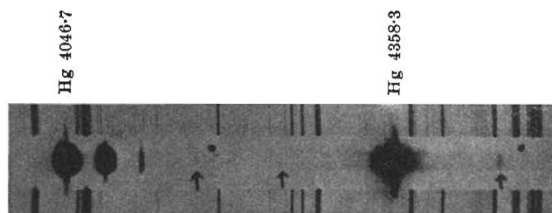


FIG. 1. Raman spectrum of carbon disulphide vapour. Copper arc above and below.

The satellites found in the spectrum of the liquid¹ and interpreted as due to transitions from excited vibrational states are not resolved, even if present, on our plates, with a linear dispersion 20 Å. per mm. at $\lambda 4358$ and a large slit width, 0.1 mm. According to the most recent and accurate data for the liquid² the centre of gravity of the two stronger component bands is shifted by 655.0 cm.⁻¹ from the exciting frequency.

The shift of the intensity maximum in the gaseous spectrum was observed as two Stokes lines of mercury $\lambda 4047$ and 4358, and an anti-Stokes line of the latter as marked by an arrow in Fig. 1. The measured value from the two Stokes lines on the best plate (reproduced) is 655 ± 1 cm.⁻¹, and is the same as the liquid shift. The negligible influence of the change of state upon the molecular vibration frequency of carbon disulphide may be expected from the smallness of dipole moment of the substance.

The intensity ratio of the $\Delta\nu=796$ cm.⁻¹ band to that of $\Delta\nu=655$ cm.⁻¹ appears to be much lower in the spectrum of the gas than in that of the liquid. Excepting a very faint and doubtful blackening, no measurable trace of the former band has been recorded above background level up to 125 hours exposure (dotted parts in Fig. 1); whereas with the liquid, as high as 1:3 is reported for the above intensity ratio under ordinary conditions of observation². It is intended to measure photometrically the value of it on a denser and sharper plate in the near future.

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¹ P. Krishnamurti and others. See literature in (2).

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