

Searches For Ways To Destroy

Thompson Delves Into Bacteriocins

By Edward Mason

Bacteriocins? No, this is not the name of a cough drop or new type tooth paste. Bacteriocins are microscopic organisms which cause rare diseases in man. Bacteriocins are research material for Dr. Thomas L. Thompson, associate professor of Microbiology.

Microbiology is the science and study of germs and organisms which are microscopic in size. That is, the organisms can not be observed with the naked eye. Thompson has been doing research on these organisms since he received his PhD from the University of Texas in 1953.

Thompson came to the University the year he obtained his degree and started teaching. He became interested in microscopic organisms called bacteriocins and started doing research work to find out about the deadly little animals.

Bacteriocins are about the same size as virus organisms, and they are viral in nature, Thompson said. Chemically, bacteriocins react much the same as do virus germs. That is, they live and reproduce much alike.

Virus organisms are much smaller than ordinary germs. Their size would be like comparing a pea to a marble.



RESEARCH—Drs. Jess M. Shively and Thomas L. Thompson, professors of microbiology, do research on bacteriocins in a laboratory in Lyman Hall.

Most viruses are transmitted from one person to another through the respiratory system. When a person coughs, the virus is thrown from his lungs into the air. Then, another person breathes in the same virus. Bacteriocins are much like these organisms.

There are many different types or strains of bacteriocins, so the disease they cause are often rare. Each bacteriocin will grow on only one type of food. This food is

a particular bacteria. Because the bacteriocin will grow on only one kind of bacteria, they are called strain specific or strain special.

Bacteriocins are studied by cultivating or growing a bacteria and finding the bacteriocin that will destroy it. Then, different methods are tested which might kill the bacteriocin. As yet, none have been discovered.

The only real advance has been in finding the bacteria that corresponds to the bacteriocin. Because there are so many strains, matching is very difficult. Dr. Thompson has discovered several matching strains, and is now searching for a means to destroy the bacteriocins. These strains have not been given names.

Beef broth is used to grow the bacteria which is used in the bacteriocin experiments. Bacteria grow and multiply when fed beef because of the high food value of blood and meat. The broth is sterilized and placed in culture plates. These plates are small glass dishes which keep other germs

out of the broth. If other germs do enter, the culture plate is said to be infected or contaminated.

After the bacteria is grown in the culture plate, a bacteriocin is applied. If the bacteria dies, the bacteriocin is proven to be the right strain. Then a method is attempted to destroy the bacteriocin. If the bacteria lives, the wrong type of bacteriocin is present, and the experiment must be started over.

It is important that the right strain of bacteria and bacteriocin is present. The qualities of the bacteria which grow the bacteriocin reveal chemical information about the bacteriocin. That is, if a bacteriocin grows on an acidic bacteria, a base chemical may be applied to kill the bacteriocin.

The 40 year old doctor said that much has been learned about bacteriocins including cultivation and types, but their destruction is still a problem. When a method of destruction is discovered, several of man's unnamed rare diseases will be cured.

City Of Science Planned

Project Will Aid Illiterate Nations

By Kathy Scheele
Methods for education of illiterate nations may be found, according to Dr. Wesley C. Meierhenry, Assistant Dean

of Teachers College. Meierhenry was one of three Americans who attended an international convention in Milan, Italy in May.

Plans have been made for an international city of science to be constructed near Milan. Universal teachers in education, economics, politics, etc. will live in the city. Their job will be to use visual aids to educate the people.

Meierhenry said that the plan is to use radios, television, films, charts and other visual aids.

It will take a long time to book educate the people and in the mean time they can be working on some small crafts. These crafts can then be sold.

The cost of this project, which is to be paid by developed nations, will be around 20 million dollars. There is a vital need for

this project, Meierhenry said. By the year, 2000 there will be over 6 million people in the world which means that in the next 35 years population will double.

If the project goes through as is planned, the University of Nebraska will probably take part. If the university does take part we will probably have an exchange of students, he said. We will also do research on the methods being used. This will include what kind of forms, limit of time, who should receive the information, and what kind of follow material to use. These methods could, if they prove successful, also be used in the United States. Meierhenry said. Nebraska too, has her illiterates to educate and this project might just supply us with the answers, he said.

Baldwin's Play Ties For First Winning \$250

A tie for first place in the Eighth Annual Stanley Drama Award contest sponsored by the New York City Writers' Conference has been awarded to the play "Thompson," written by Dr. Joseph Baldwin, professor of Speech and Dramatic Art at the University.

Baldwin will share the five hundred dollar first place prize with Megan Terry, a Connecticut playwright.

Baldwin's three-act drama, "Thompson," will be presented on the evening of July 16, 1964, at Wagner College, Staten Island, New York. Miss Terry's play "Hothouse," which tied for first place, will also be presented during the July 5-17 Writers' Conference.

The local playwright plans to attend the writers' conference and see the production of his play. "Thompson" was first performed at the University of Alabama in 1951, and more recently at La Grange College, Georgia, as part of that college's Fine Arts Festival, April, 1964.

Four of Baldwin's one-act plays have received publication, two by Samuel French, Inc., New York City, and two by Dramatic Publishing Co., Chicago. His longer plays have been performed at the State University of Iowa, the University of Alabama, the University of Mississippi, Wichita University, and others.

Other playwrighting awards won by Baldwin have been: The Texas Playwright's Award, given by the Houston Little Theatre, for the play "The Other," in 1951; the Theodore Marburg Award given at Johns Hopkins University for the play "The Railroad Upstairs," in 1952; and the Birmingham Festival of Alabama, for the play "Bronson Leaf," in 1958.

Abel, Hall Announce Six Broadcast Grants

Six freshman broadcast scholarships, with a total value of more than \$1500, will be available at the University's School of Journalism for qualified 1965 Nebraska high school graduates.

The new broadcast scholarship program was announced jointly Thursday by A. James Ebel, Lincoln, president of the Nebraska Broadcasters Association, and Dr. William E. Hall, director of the School of Journalism.

More than \$1,000 already has been subscribed toward that goal by 15 member stations of the Nebraska Broadcasters Association. The scholarships will be administered by Robert E. Spearman of the Journalism School's radio-television faculty through the University of Nebraska Foundation.

"Our goal in broadcasting, as with our advertising and news-editorial programs, will be to offer a program of instruction that will compare favorably with any in the nation," Hall said. "This scholarship aid from Nebraska's broadcasters will help us to attract the caliber of student required to develop such a program."

In announcing the scholarships Ebel said, "The broadcasters of Nebraska recognize an increased need for trained young people in radio and television. It is for this reason the member stations of the Nebraska Broadcasters Association are cooperating in this scholarship program."

Responsibility for building the University's program in broadcast education was transferred to the School of Journalism in the fall of 1963. Broadcast staff members include Spearman, a former Nebraska broadcaster and more recently a news producer with Station KPX-TV, San Francisco; Albert C. Book, a former New York advertising agency executive, and Dr. M. Scheffel Pierce, whose experience includes 15 years of teaching.

Stations to date participating in the scholarship program include:

KOLN-TV, Lincoln, KGIN-TV, Grand Island; a \$250 grant for a student resident within the coverage area of these two stations. KOLN-TV also sponsors a \$250 grant for a junior or senior broadcast journalism major.

The Stuart Broadcasting Company, owners of KFOR,

Lincoln; KRGI, Grand Island, and KMNS, Sloux City; \$264 scholarship for a student residing within the coverage area of these stations.

The Beef Empire Stations, owners of WJAG, Norfolk, KVSH, Valentine; and KCSR, Chadron; a \$264 scholarship for a student from the areas served by these stations.

Other contributors include: KRVN-AM-FM, Lexington; KHUB, Fremont; KNEB-AM-FM, Scottsbluff; KTNC, Falls City; KSID, Sidney, KCNI, Broken Bow; KNCY, Nebraska City; and KOLT, Scottsbluff.

Application forms will be sent to all Nebraska high schools early in the fall for distribution to those students interested in applying for the broadcast scholarships.

YR's Hear Talk On Convention

The University Young Republicans met last Tuesday evening. This meeting was the first time that the group has gathered during a summer session.

Mrs. Edna B. Donald, former National Committeewoman, spoke to the group. She cautioned against assuming that Goldwater is a shoo-in.

"If Goldwater had the nomination sewed up, Scranton wouldn't be campaigning as hard as he is," said Mrs. Donald. Mrs. Donald has been a National Committee woman since 1943 when she was the youngest member of the arrangements committee of the National Convention, and is now retiring as the oldest member.

Mrs. Donald said she feels that if the National Convention gets deadlocked, that dark horse Thurston Morton might well have an inside track.

William Waddell, co-chairman of the Scranton organization in Nebraska was also present.

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