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IT'S PRETTY BUT—Cold weather here not only brought the snow that decorates the Davison Building in this picture but also has caused serious energy problems. The university currently is burning coal faster than it can be unloaded from the railroad cars, said Ronald L. Wilson, associate director of the physical plant. The unusually cold temperatures also are causing a greater demand for electricity than was expected. Wilson urged cooperation in conserving steam heat and electricity by lowering thermostats and turning off unused lights and other electric appliances.

May Help Heart Attack, Stroke Victims Chemicals Halt Blood Clots

By David Williamson

Scientists here have developed a series of chemical compounds that interfere with blood clotting under laboratory conditions.

If the chemicals, which are called monocyclic peroxides, can be made to work the same way in the human body, they may have far-reaching effects in the prevention and treatment of strokes and certain heart attacks, according to Dr. Daniel B. Menzel, associate professor of pharmacology.

Menzel said the compounds mimic the action of a recently discovered natural hormone known as prostacyclin or PGX.

Protects Arteries

Prostacyclin, described only last month by Dr. John Vane of Wellcome Laboratories, serves to protect arteries against the build-up of platelets along their inner walls, a process long associated by medical researchers with stroke and cardiovascular disease.

Prostacyclin decomposes rapidly, however, limiting its potential

'Playing Doctor' Eases Anxiety

By John Becton

If the pupils in Cynthia Thomas' second grade class at Little River Elementary School are representative of the norm – and there's no reason to assume otherwise – going to the doctor would not be on any youngster's list of "my favorite things."

But for this particular group of kids, going to the doctor in the future may not be so bad, thanks to Dr. Corry Sibrack, pediatric resident.

A five-week block of the first year pediatrics residency is devoted to "Behavior Development." For Dr. Sibrack, this includes spending about one half of each week at Little River School visiting classes and working with the school's counselor, Steve Harris. "How do you feel about going to the doctor?" she began.

None of the answers was especially positive: "Bad;" "I don't like it because they stick tubes in my ears." "I feel sick;" and, the least negative, "I don't have to go to the doctor, because my mother is one."

Discussing "What" and "Why" Others related experiences – blood tests, shots, stitches, etc. – and Dr. Sibrack agreed they were less than pleasant, though important and necessary.

Then, one by one, she pulled from her "little black bag" a stethoscope, opthalmoscope, otoscope and reflex hammer. a resounding "No."

When she is not at the school, Dr. Sibrack works with a psychiatric advisor and observes children at Presbyterian Day Care Center, Wright School, and the Child Guidance Clinic.

This part of the residency, according to Dr. Sibrack, "gives us a (Continued on page 4) usefulness in preventing clots.

"Our compounds, these monocyclic peroxides, are the first chemically synthesized drugs which have prostacyclin properties," Menzel said. "That makes them an entirely new route of attack to prevent blood coagulation.

Exciting Possibilities

"We are very excited about the possibilities, and the research was very well received at the yearly symposium of the Intra-Science Research Foundation held in Santa Monica, Calif., in December," he said.

Collaborating with Menzel in the discovery were Dr. Ned A. Porter, associate professor of chemistry; J. R. Nixon, a chemistry graduate student; and Drs. Joseph H. Roycroft and Ramadas Isaac, research associates in pharmacology and surgery, respectively.

The five published a report of their findings in the January issue of Research Communications in Chemical Pathology and Pharmacology, a professional journal.

Like a Clogged Pipe

Menzel said the coagulation or clotting of blood is an essential mechanism by which the body uses platelets to close off wounds and prevent death by loss of blood. But when clotting occurs along the walls of arteries that are not otherwise damaged, the vessels begin to shrink in size internally, much like a pipe in a kitchen sink that is becoming clogged.

If a mass of platelets called a thrombus then breaks away from an artery wall, it may stop blood flow

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Seeking to Reduce the Threat

One thing she is trying to accomplish is to make trips to the doctor less threatening.

The visit to Ms. Thomas' class illustrates how.

First of all, Dr. Sibrack herself was not threatening to the class. She was dressed casually and without white jacket.

She was introduced as "Corry Sibrack, a doctor," rather than as "Dr. Sibrack."

And she engaged the pupils in a thorough discussion about visits with the doctor.

Most of the class had seen most of these before and had some idea what they were for.

Dr. Sibrack discussed more fully how doctors use each, and why. Then she let the class spend some time listening to each other's hearts, looking in each other's ears and hammering on each other's knees. Not So Bad After All

After a while of lub-dubs and knee jerks, Dr. Sibrack listened to a few more questions and comments about various pupils' own experiences and encouraged them to ask questions of their own doctors as well.

She then asked if the next trip to the doctor would seem as bad as before. The overwhelming vote was



SO THAT'S WHAT THE DOCTOR SEES—Dr. Corry Sibrack, pediatric resident, demonstrates the otoscope to second graders at Little River Elementary School, as part of a discussion about visits to the doctor. (Photo by John Becton)