

# Blood Fractions or Substances

“THE life is in the blood.” The more man learns about the blood stream the more he appreciates that Scriptural statement. Termed a “floating tissue,” the blood not only serves to provide the oxygen and food elements for all the body’s cells but also carries away all their waste products. And the blood does this without confusing the one with the other.

¶ In man’s efforts to understand the blood he has been able to separate many of the substances blood contains. Thus Dr. L. A. Erf of the Jefferson Medical College and Hospital at Philadelphia in the medical house organ *Seminar*, Summer 1956, states that seventy different blood substances or fractions have been separated or fractionated in a pure or impure state. Among the fractions he mentions are red cells [hemoglobin], white cells, platelets, albumin, thromboplastin, thrombin, fibrinogen, prothrombin, gamma globulin, cholesterol, serum esterase, pasmogen, etc. He also observes that ultimately there may be several thousands of blood fractions obtainable.

¶ While the point of his discussion is an argument for the use of certain of these blood fractions, it is nevertheless interesting to note the arguments he produces against the use of whole blood. Says Dr. Erf: “Years ago pernicious anemia was treated by transfusions—just for the vitamin B-12 that the blood contained. Now, transfusions are never given for pernicious anemia because of the dangers of: (1) *hepatitis or other disease-producing agents (syphilis, parasites)*; (2) *incompatible agglutination immunization*; (3) *overloading*

of weak cardiac musculature; (4) *abnormal allergens*; and (5) *ineffective therapeutic results*. [Italics Dr. Erf’s]

¶ “Clinicians are daily learning the dangers of repeated transfusions, particularly in obstetrical cases, hemolytic [blood] diseases, and even in leukemia and bleeding disorders. . . . Likewise, the immunization mechanisms against blood group factors are no longer an irresponsible feature when transfusions are used as therapy. There are over 20 different series of blood groups or factors that can be identified at present and which can be antigenic. It is therefore almost impossible to avoid the administration of immunizing substances when transfusions are given.”

¶ And in discussing the use of whole blood in conditions known as “shock,” Dr. Erf goes on to say: “Whole blood and plasma have the disadvantage of transmitting hepatitis, malaria, viruses, syphilis; of causing abnormal immunization processes; and of causing allergic manifestations.” And in summing up the use of blood as therapy he, among other things, states: “It is now obvious that the administration of whole blood is a crude and inefficient way of handling some of the presently known specific deficiencies.” Yes, whole blood is coming more and more into disrepute.

¶ While this physician argues for the use of certain blood fractions, particularly albumin, such also come under the Scriptural ban. In fact, these fractions are being used not only by physicians but also by food processors, and so it would be well to note the labels on such products to see if they contain any blood substances or fractions. When in doubt, it would be best to do without.

## BABIES’ DISEASE AND BLOOD TRANSFUSIONS

¶ The Medical & Pharmaceutical Information Bureau, Inc., declares that “cirrhosis of the liver, a condition usually associated with alcoholism in adults, may occur even in newborn infants. *The New York State Journal of Medicine* reports that this disease, which slowly destroys liver cells, is most prevalent among children in the West Indies, India and Africa. In these areas, the commonest cause of the condition is nutritional deficiency, such as the lack of proteins and vitamins in the daily diet. However, malformation or infection of the liver can also cause cirrhosis. And one long-range study shows that the most frequent cause is hepatitis, a liver disease caused by a viral infection. The researchers believe that hepatitis in newborn infants may be acquired before birth from mothers who have been infected through blood transfusions, but who show no symptoms themselves.”