

Museum pieces. 4, An early blood transfusion.

Contributors

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An Early Blood Transfusion

MUSEUM PIECES—4

FERRAPLEX B

hæmatinic supplement

As early experimenters found to their cost, the problems of blood transfusion did not consist solely of devising a satisfactory means of transferring blood from one animal to another. A number of additional factors required to be taken into account before a rational technique could be evolved.

Similarly in the treatment of iron-deficiency anæmia it is increasingly recognised that successful therapy frequently involves more than the simple administration of ferrous sulphate alone. In many patients, particularly adolescent girls, expectant mothers and aged or debilitated subjects, additional nutritional factors must be provided for effective iron utilisation.

FERRAPLEX B is formulated in accordance with these modern requirements. In addition to an adequate dose of easily assimilated iron in the form of ferrous sulphate, each tablet contains sufficient copper, vitamin C and complete, naturally-occurring vitamin B complex to promote effective utilisation of the chief ingredient.

By combining iron in its most readily absorbable form with these supplementary factors FERRAPLEX B provides highly efficient hæmatinic therapy, while its use is but rarely accompanied by the gastro-intestinal disturbance often associated with the administration of iron products.

The scene portrayed by this 17th-century woodcut is typical of early attempts at blood transfusion from animal to man. One such experiment was conducted in 1666 by Jean Baptiste Denis, physician to Louis XIV, when he transfused a patient with the blood of a lamb. Not surprisingly the outcome was disastrous; the patient, previously weakened by a tremendous phlebotomy, rallied for a while and then died.

More than 200 years later, in the 1870's, the use of lamb's blood was still being advocated for transfusion purposes—and even whole milk was not without its supporters. Not until Landsteiner's discovery of blood groups in 1900 were previous failures explained and a more scientific approach to the problem made possible.

FERRAPLEX B

Dosage

One or two tablets three times daily according to the patient's age and the severity of the anaemia. Young children should receive a reduced dosage according to age. It is advisable to commence with one or two tablets daily and increase the dosage gradually. The tablets should always be taken with or immediately after food.

Packings and Prices

FERRAPLEX B is available in bottles of 50 tablets at 5/3d. and 250 tablets at 23/3d. Basic N.H.S. cost of 250 tablets, 15/6d. Daily average cost of treatment, 4½d.

Composition

The recommended daily dose of six FERRAPLEX B tablets contains:—

FERROUS SULPHATE Exsicc., B.P.	1 gramme
COPPER CARBONATE	2 mg.
ASCORBIC ACID (Vitamin C) ..	50 mg.
NATURAL VITAMIN B COMPLEX EXTRACT ..	2 grammes

PREPARED FROM BREWERS' YEAST

including

Aneurine hydrochloride	3 mg.
Riboflavine	6 mg.
Nicotinamide	30 mg.

and pantothenic acid, pyridoxine, folic acid, choline, inositol, biotin, para-aminobenzoic acid and other naturally occurring factors of the vitamin B complex.



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