

Isolation and Identification of a Substance from Serum of Leprosy Patients

TO THE EDITOR:

Sera from healthy persons and leprosy patients (5320 sera) who had various forms of the disease were examined using the reaction of Rubino (¹⁻⁶). Sera from some patients which gave a positive reaction were selected and submitted to fractionation on a Sephadex column. A fraction containing agglutination activity for sheep erythrocytes was isolated. This activity was evident only after the fractionation procedure. The active fraction was immediately concentrated and lyophilized. In order to observe a positive reaction of agglutination, it was necessary to use recently prepared erythrocytes. The isolated substance had a molecular weight of 76 kDa (⁷), an isoelectric point (⁸) of 5.70, and has high activity in causing the agglutination of sheep erythrocytes. The chemical structure is being determined (⁹).

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