

ROMANCE OF A DROP OF BLOOD

By
JANET FRANK EGLESON

A young and handsome drop of virile blood
Once felt the need to seek his livelihood.
Bidding his dear mother not to grieve,
From the right atrium he took his leave.
Said he on parting, "Mother, do not fear--
"I shall return in twenty seconds, dear."

Then, passing the tricuspid, he set forth
With trusty compass to show south from north.
In foreign lands our hero now is found,
Standing firm on right ventricular ground.
And seeking shelter in a darkened cave
He wanders into the arterial nave.

In pulmonary pools Blood swims along
(He knows not if the route is right or wrong);
Then suddenly, a surging, raging throng
Draws helpless Blood into a pulpy lung!
The walls close in, the halls more narrow grow
(Oh, where, of where's the road to Jericho?)

Bewildered, of his senses near bereft,
Blood's swept into the atrium to the left.
Half-fainting, calling his dear mother's name,
He staggers to a ventricle again--
'Tis also left. And the land more placid seems
With capillaries and red, ruby streams.

What, ho? Another cave! With map in hands
Blood learns that here the Great Aorta stands.
Courageously, the valve-like door he grasps
As from within a voice like thunder rasps:
"Who passes here? Who dares to go this way?"
Our man replies, "Sir Blood, sire, if I may.

"My path lies through the artery systemic
To route 12-A, Superior Mesenteric."
The rasping voice Sir Blood permission spared.
On oxygen and bread our hero fared,
Small nourishment for such a red-blood mortal!--
Through intestinal vessels and the vena portal.

Through liver ducts, a small contorted maze,
The seconds seemed like minutes, hours, days.
Exhausted, Blood emerged at last;
Toward homeward-bound Hepatic he had passed.
Inferior Vena Cava, familiar sight,
Assured him that the path he chose was right.

Scarce upon this happy fact's beknown
 Right atrium he spied--Sir Blood's maison!
 But satisfied? His life has only started,
 And next he plans a trip through the carotid.



SYMPOSIUM ON IMMUNITY

Section F (Zoological Sciences) of the AAAS will sponsor a one-session interdisciplinary symposium on Developmental Aspects of Immunity at the annual AAAS meetings in Cleveland on the morning of December 28, 1963, Sheraton-Cleveland Hotel. Titles and participants are as follows:

Introduction

James D. Ebert, Carnegie Institution of Washington

Sequential Nature of the Immune Process

Jonathan W. Uhr, New York University Medical Center

Relationship of Thymus to Development of Immunologic
 Responsiveness

J. F. A. P. Miller, Chester Beatty Research Institute

Phylogeny of the Immune Response

Robert A. Good, Variety Club Heart Hospital

Ontogeny of the Immune Response

Arthur M. Silverstein, Armed Forces Institute of Pathology

Further information can be obtained from David W. Bishop, Dept. of Embryology, Carnegie Institution of Washington, 115 W. University Parkway, Baltimore 10, Md.