

globin is conveyed back to the lungs, where a fresh intake of oxygen occurs. Thus the round is effected by the capacity possessed by hæmoglobin of taking oxygen into chemical union of a sufficiently feeble nature to permit of its being subsequently dissociated to meet the demand of the tissues. I urge that we have here a parallel of what occurs in the case of the transport of carbohydrate from the seat of accumulation in the liver to that of utilisation in the tissues.

In this transport of carbohydrate I have assumed that it passes in the form of a side-chain linked on to a large-moleculed constituent of the blood. As yet we have no distinct evidence before us to show what this constituent really is. Probably it is of a protein nature, and if so, we have material at hand to open out a consistent train of reasoning of much interest and importance standing at the root of what is being dealt with. Let me enter into particulars and expound what I refer to.

What is wanted for transport service is that the carbohydrate should be loosely linked on to the carrying molecule, so as to be susceptible of being disjoined without involving the disruption of the molecule itself. Evidence, as we shall see, is producible attesting the existence of such a state. At the same time, let me say that evidence is also producible having the effect of showing the existence of carbohydrate in another state in the molecule—in a state so closely locked-up as not to be susceptible of liberation apart from the disintegration of the molecule. Both points it will be found, have important practical bearings connected with them.

That the existence of carbohydrate in a loosely combined and in a firmly locked-up state in a molecule is no mere hypothesis is capable of being made manifest by what is seen when amygdalin is exposed to different kinds of enzyme action. A molecule of amygdalin has two molecules of carbohydrate within it. When subjected to the action of glucase, the ferment which transforms maltose into glucose, a molecule of glucose is split off without the production of any further effect, which means that the other molecule is left untouched. In contact with emulsin, however, both molecules are liberated, with benzoic aldehyde and hydrocyanic acid as associated products. The conclusion to be drawn from these results is that the two carbohydrate molecules within the amygdalin molecule are differently placed—that one is in a position to be easily detached without leading to other disturbance, whilst in the case of the other, its liberation involves molecular disruption as an attendant phenomenon.

A study of the effects of phloridzin affords immense help in unravelling the intricacies of the question that is being considered, and it