bution of co-administered drugs that bind to HSA in blood. They also point to the utility of bilirubin as a sensitive three-dimensional chiroptical probe.

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Editorial note

A. H. Meier and his group are among the few biologists working to understand the implications of the periodicity evident in many physiological systems, such as the circadian changes of blood hormone levels, neuronal activities, and state of energy metabolism. It is known today, due to his and a few others' work, that from teleosts to mammals the daily rhythms of prolactin and corticosteroid secretion seem critically involved in the control of body lipid stores. To manipulate prolactin serum levels, either a prolactin preparation can be injected which in most instances will be heterologous with the consequence of possible differing in the profile of activities from the homologous hormone. Or, endogenous prolactin secretion may be temporarily suppressed by giving a D_2 dopamine receptor agonist, e.g. bromocriptine, accepting the possible complication that after the systemic application such drug's action is possibly not restricted to the inhibitory D_2 receptors of the anterior pituitary prolactin cells, but may affect other dopaminergically controlled systems as well, such as the hypothalamus. Despite these possible complications in the interpretation of experimental findings the results will be of interest to internal medicine.

E. Flückiger

Timed bromocriptine administration reduces body fat stores in obese subjects and hyperglycemia in type II diabetics*

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Abstract. Obese postmenopausal female volunteers were given timed daily oral dosages of bromocriptine, and tested for reduction of body fat stores. This dopamine agonist has been shown to reset circadian rhythms that are altered in obese animals and to reduce body fat levels in several animal models. The participants were instructed not to alter