Bose *et al.* (1943) and its hypotensive effect in higher doses, reported by the same authors (*loc. cit.*), might be due to its depressant effect on the tissue respiration of heart muscle. The inhibition of tissue respiration by all the three alkaloids as observed in the present investigation might indicate a direct inhibitory action on the cellular metabolism affecting the respiratory dehydrogenase enzyme system.

Further work, that is being carried out from this laboratory on the effect of these alkaloids on dehydrogenase enzymes (unpublished paper), is in agreement with the above hypothesis inasmuch as Reserpine has been found to produce a marked inhibition of succinic dehydrogenase activity in these tissues.

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OBITUARY

PROFESSOR C. G. ROSSBY

PROFESSOR CARL GUSTAF ROSSBY died suddenly from a heart attack on 19th August 1957. He was born in 1898, in Stockholm where he also completed his University training. During leave of absence from the Swedish Meteorological and Hydrological Institute, where he spent some years as an assistant, he also studied under Professor Vilhelm Bjerknes in Bergen. In 1926, he went to the United States of America for a visit but stayed there to work at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. There he established a meteorological department which he directed till 1939. For two years he was Assistant Director and Scientific Adviser with the United States Weather Bureau and in 1941, became Professor at the University of Chicago. After 6 years there, he was called back to Sweden as Professor at the University of Stockholm and Scientific Adviser at the Swedish Meteorological and Hydrological Institute. Thereafter he spent part of his time in Sweden and part of it in the United States.

Dr. Rossby was an outstanding scientist in meteorology and oceanography and pioneered research in many branches of these sciences. His earlier publications were on thermodynamics and friction in the atmosphere and in the ocean. His most valuable contributions were perhaps his demonstration of the importance in dynamical and synoptic meteorology of the variation with latitude of the Coriolis force and his theory of long circumpolar waves. Together with Professor E. Palmén, Rossby proved the existence of the jet stream, and his work on the conservation of absolute vorticity became the basis for present numerical forecasting methods. In recent years he also took up studies of atmospheric chemistry.

At the International Meteorological Institute, which he created in Stockholm with support from UNESCO, he gathered specialists from the whole world for seminars and for informal discussions of important scientific questions. Advanced students and experts from more than 20 foreign countries worked for long periods at the Institute. The results of their activity has often been published in the geophysical journal *Tellus*, sponsored by the Swedish Geophysical Society and edited by Dr. Rossby.

Dr. Rossby also took an active part in the work of International Union for Geodesy and Geophysics (IUGG), in which he was President of the International Association of Meteorology of IUGG, and in the planning and preparation for the International Geophysical Year.

Dr. Rossby was certainly one of the world's most prominent scientific meteorologists and his ability to stimulate the enthusiasm of his students and colleagues was outstanding. Through his charm and his personality he also infected many who previously had little appreciation of the science of meteorology and its potentialities. The meteorological world suffers a great loss by his untimely death. (*WMO Bulletin*, October 1957.)