

## *Vitamin "C's" Discovery*

VITAMIN "C," otherwise ascorbin, has relieved many sufferers from haemophilia. Doctors have discovered many other uses for it. Its discoverer, Albert von Szent Gyorgy, professor at the university of Szeged, in Hungary, has just been awarded the Nobel Prize for Medicine.

The story of the discovery is one of the most extraordinary in the history of scientific research.

For years the young Gyorgy had been aware of the immense importance in the economy of the human body of the vitamin. The problem was how to obtain enough.

After years of preparatory work in his laboratory, Szent Gyorgy went to the United States, where he obtained a subsidy for research. He thought he might extract vitamin "C" from certain glands in cattle slaughtered in Cincinnati.

### *At the Back Door*

He remained there for four years, working with infinite patience, existing on a pittance, and using tons of material supplied from the slaughter-houses. All he could show at the end was twenty-four grams of the precious substance.

Tired in mind and body, Szent Gyorgy returned to Szeged. His devoted wife prepared for him a festive meal, and one of the dishes was made of paprika, collected in her kitchen garden.

While eating the dish the professor had an inspiration. Seizing what was left of the paprika he rushed to his laboratory and in a few minutes established that the plant possessed vitamin "C" in abundance.

The element he had travelled thousands of miles to find grew at his back door.