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BLOOD PROTEINS AND THEIR THERAPEUTIC VALUE

By Professor Edwin J. Cohn
DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICAL CHEMISTRY, HARVARD MEDICAL SCHOOL

Recognition of the role of the National Research Council in making available to Government Agencies the knowledge and advice of civilian experts in the medical sciences appears to be peculiarly appropriate at this time. I am honored to have been asked to participate in this ceremony, and to discuss blood proteins and their therapeutic value. The Blood Substitutes Sub-Committee of the National Research Council is

1 Address delivered on December 11, 1944, at the ceremony of the award to the National Research Council by the American Pharmaceutical Manufacturers Association, New York, N. Y.
2 The observations on which this appraisal is based involve so many fields and have appeared in such diverse publications that even a partial bibliography would be longer than this address. "A Plan for Collection, Transportation and Administration of Whole Blood and of Plasma in Warfare," by DeGowin and Hardin (War Medicine, 1: 328, 1941), reviews the earlier experience on blood transfusions, "The Preparation and Preservation of Human Plasma," by Strumia, McGray, and Reichel (Am. Jour. Clin. Path., 11: 480, 1941), that on a small group, the membership of which has changed but little from the time, many months before Pearl Harbor, when it was reorganized and charged with the responsibility of advising the Armed Forces and Government Agencies as to the methods to be employed and the products to be accumulated against military emergency or civilian disaster. Although it has carefully and critically examined the properties of every blood substitute that has been suggested, it