

the American leaders, as I stated previously, would not have been so apprehensive about improving them. It is high time that we should establish a system of education suitable to us as a distinct people, with limited financial resources, with problems peculiar to our own conditions. We should not forget, however, that in many

ways education is universal in character. Therefore, we need to discover and to learn whatever is good in the educational ideas of other countries; then we should import them, if necessary, not, however, through a system of adoption but through a process of adaptation. Thus we may be able to enrich and develop our own.

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### NEW BLOOD TEST FOR BODY DISEASES

A simple blood test for diseases of the heart, liver and other body organs based on the identification of enzyme "fingerprints" was described at a recent meeting of the American Chemical Society. The test depends on LDH (lactic dehydrogenase), an enzyme that regulates several important chemical processes in the body, according to medical authorities. LDH occurs in five distinct forms called isoenzymes, which appear in different proportions in different organs. Clinical tests indicate that when an organ is damaged it releases enzymes into the blood stream. "impressing its LDH isoenzyme pattern on the blood, like an identifiable fingerprint," the authorities explained.

Blood tests can, therefore, serve to identify an injured organ, and they are especially suitable for the detection of heart and liver damage because these LDH patterns differ markedly in their resistance to heat. A large amount of LDH destroyed by heating a sample of the blood serum at a relatively low temperature indicates liver disease while a large proportion of lactic dehydrogenase stable at a relatively high temperature indicates heart damage.