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2. Stoffwechsel und Arteriosklerose – Métabolisme et artério-sclérose – Metabolism and arteriosclerosis

a) *Blutlipoide, Blutlipoproteide – Lipides et lipoprotéïdes sanguins – Bloodlipids, bloodlipoproteins*

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Donner Laboratory of Biophysics and Medical Physics
University of California, Berkeley

The Role of Lipoproteins in Coronary Disease

By F. T. Lindgren, Ph.D., and J. W. Gofman, M.D.

Arteriosclerosis and its most frequent clinical entity, coronary artery disease, presents one of the major medical problems, particularly in the more prosperous areas of the world. Undoubtedly, there are many factors operating over the entire lifespan of an individual which participate in the actual development of the arteriosclerotic lesion, yet, at the present time, the exact sequence of events and relative importance of these factors is a matter of debate. Without definitively choosing between the relative importance of these factors one can study the relationship of several biochemical variables with the clinical presence or absence of arteriosclerosis. However, one of the major limitations in the quantitative evaluation of arteriosclerosis is that without an actual autopsy there is no way in which to accurately assess the amount of disease present in a given individual. Thus, in our efforts to study the disease, at least for the present, we must rely upon indirect methods to evaluate the amount of arteriosclerosis present in an individual or in a group of individuals.

For a long time the blood lipids have been suspected as a major contributing factor in the development of arteriosclerosis. The fact that the intimal deposits generally contain significant quantities of all the constituent lipids present in the blood stream has given wide support to this view. However, the actual evidence implicating the serum lipids is that elevated levels of certain of the serum lipids (such as serum cholesterol) are associated with the presence of more than average arteriosclerosis (1, 2). Recently it has been technically possible to study and characterize the actual molecular units which circulate in the blood stream and which carry essentially all of the known serum lipids. In these studies (3, 4, 5, 6) certain of the lipoproteins of the low density class (characterized