Is High Blood CO a Cl
To Smokers' Coronari

Danish expert finds heavy saturation among inhal cigarettes and cheroots; plans some animal tests

High carbon monoxide blood saturation levels, found in venous blood of cigarette and cheroot smokers, particularly those with thromboangiitis obliterans (Buerger's disease), "displaces the entire oxygen dissociation curve significantly to the left." A Danish professor of clinical chemistry told a medical forum in Lund, Sweden, recently that this "may well explain why the coronary thrombosis rate among inhaling smokers is about three time- higher than among nonsmokers."

Dr. Poul Astrup, an internationa- expert in acid-base balance, also said he believed that the displacement of the curve due to carbon monoxide "is a neglected factor important for the development of arteriosclerosis in man."

Twenty to 21 per cent is the normal oxygen tension of venous blood in the coronary sinus, Dr. Astrup told MEDICAL TRIBUNE. But Buerger's disease patients, with 10 per cent carbon monoxide hemoglobin levels, he said, show venous blood tensions of 15 to 16 per cent for extracting the same amount of

"This means," he said, "that th inside arterial walls, which are qu must be low, so that lesions ca arise. The results, I believe, is a p sition to arteriosclerosis. We are do animal experiments which I a sure will show it," he said.

Pointing out that the oxygen ation curves published in 1941 Americans, Drs. D. B. Dill and Forbes, and still widely used as ence, were constructed largely fr by a single investigator, Dr. A. of Boston, in 1924, Dr. Astrup d a new standard curve plotted at the hagen University Hospital Centr ratory, which he heads.

"It is more accurate than Boc clinical chemist remarked.

Dr. Astrup said oxygen sa values were determined at various tensions in 1,000 blood samples normal subjects, all nonsmokers, trophotometry at two differen