Correspondence

Lieutenant-Colonel McKendrick has not been able to find any evidence of a racial susceptibility to rabies, but he finds that non-Europeans have a very much greater degree of risk than Europeans, that they are usually more severely bitten and oftener on the bare skin, that they do not begin treatment so early, and that the biting animal is more frequently rabid.

As regards the efficacy of the various methods of treatment, Lieutenant-Colonel McKendrick considers that the statistics submitted appear to indicate a probable advantage in favour of modified dilution methods of treatment.

The last paper is a report on the floods in China, made by the Medical Director of the Health Organization of the League of Nations on the work undertaken to co-ordinate the campaign against epidemics.


By the completion of Part X—"The Brain"—the author brings his remarkable and original atlas of anatomy to a successful conclusion. The twelve coloured plates of this section are printed on transparent paper and accompanied by a key index in conformity with the other twelve parts of this work.

In this most difficult section, Dr. Cheesman fully maintains the high standard which he has successfully realized throughout.

The completed publication numbering 156 plates, with a key index to each section, is conveniently contained in a neat loose leaf binding case measuring only 7½ x 9 in. It should make a special appeal to the surgeons of the Services, since the anatomy of the whole human body is presented in a fresh light, rarely encountered outside a dissecting room, and collected in a most portable form.

The novel possibilities associated with the possession of Baillière’s "Synthetic Anatomy" include the projection of transverse sections of any part at any desired level; the exact localization of any desired point by means of scales provided on the key index; the production of stereoscopic effects by combination of two or more plates, and the ready enlargement of any given tracing.

G. M.

Correspondence.

B.P.V.—DEFICIENCY AND ASCARIS IN RELATION TO PELLAGRA.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "JOURNAL OF THE ROYAL ARMY MEDICAL CORPS."

SIR,—I was most interested to read, in your Editorial on the latest annual report of the Lister Institute of Preventive Medicine, of certain work recently done bearing upon the question of the biological protein value (B.P.V.) of maize. The results, if confirmed, show that this is by
no means low—rather the contrary—and hence give no support to the view that pellagra is essentially due to a low B.P.V. of maize as food. This appears to be a serious blow to the chief conclusion of the Pellagra Commission on the Turkish prisoners of war (1918-1919), on which I had the honour to serve. In a long letter to the Lancet (1920, i, p. 1193), I discussed this question in detail and gave my reasons for considering that infection with *Ascaris* constituted probably a most important factor in the causation of this disease. This factor may be either the action of the toxins of this helminth, or the utilization by the worms of certain essential elements in the digested food (to the consequent deprivation of the host), or both effects combined. In addition to my own parasitological observations, I should add that my view was strengthened, in my opinion, by the work and opinions of others, notably Bigland and Enright (on the occurrence of pellagra in German prisoners, in whose case there was certainly no question of B.P.V.-deficiency), Stewart (on biological points in connection with the development of the worms), and Bedson (on the toxicity of *Ascaris*), which were there outlined (loc. cit.). It is worth noting also that Roaf, who was another member of the above-cited Commission and then supported the B.P.V.-deficiency view, later, in his "Textbook of Physiology" (1924), distinctly qualified this opinion. He says there: "It must be remembered that it is not the amount eaten, but the amount absorbed, which is the essential factor." This is a very different matter. Hence, for the above reasons, I am now more than ever inclined to regard *Ascaris*-infection as the principal cause of pellagra.

October 24, 1932,
Walton-on-Thames.

H. M. Woodcock.

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**Notices.**

**HIGH QUALITY MILK BONUS.**

For a long time the Directors of Cow and Gate, Ltd., have been desirous of making some financial recognition of high quality and special care in the handling of their milk by suppliers to the company, as they feel progress in quality production is of vital national importance.

An experimental Scheme was put into operation at one Branch in June last, and the Scheme set out below will be adopted at all West of England Branches as from October 1, 1932.

Each supplier's milk will be graded by a system of marks, and each month ten per cent of farmers gaining the greatest number of marks will be paid 1d. extra per gallon for the month's supply. The twenty per cent of farmers gaining the next highest marks will be paid ½d. per gallon extra.

Marks will be awarded as follows, the numbers given being the