LETTER TO THE EDITOR

The Leucocyte Response in the Rabbit to Pyrogen from *Proteus vulgaris*

SIR,—In the discussion on this paper at the British Pharmaceutical Conference at Oxford Dr. Dare said that, of the three papers from this Department dealing with pyrogen and small lymphocyte percentage fall, the first had claimed that there was no correlation, the second that there was partial and the third complete correlation. Careful perusal of what Dr. Dare calls the first paper (*J. Pharm. Pharmacol.*, 1952, **4**, 972) will show his remarks to be misleading, because they betray an inaccurate interpretation of the paper, admittedly preliminary in nature, which dealt with only one dose level and which referred to the possibility of finding anomalous lack of correlation between two responses in any isolated rabbit and not the absence of correlation between the two responses (temperature and small lymphocyte percentage fall) in rabbits generally. To say that "partial correlation" was claimed in the second paper (*ibid.*, 1954, **6**, 317) is quite wrong, since this term nowhere appears in the paper to which he refers. I would gladly refer him to standard texts for a description of this statistic even though, in my view, he used the term carelessly. In the third paper (*ibid.*, 1954, **6**, 962) a completely different index (percentage fall in the average number of lobes per neutrophil) was assessed and correlation found to exist over the range defined by the 4 dose levels. The index which was the subject of the previous papers (small lymphocyte percentage fall) was reinvestigated by a different worker (Mr. Anderson) over 4 dose levels, with the accumulated experience of the Department, and correlation was shown to exist. It was, therefore, with considerable astonishment that I heard Dr. Dare employ reasoning, not at all concerned with the new index presented, in criticism of a new suggestion presented by a young worker.

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ABSTRACTS (*Continued from page* 1095.)

Thiopentone Sodium, Absorption, Excretion and Distribution of, in the Organs and Tissues of the Rat. L. I. Grebennik and Z. Solob'eva. (*Farmakologiya i Toksikologiya*, 1954, **17**, No. 1, 22.) Healthy male rats were given thiopentone sodium labelled with ^{35}S in doses of 5 mg./100 g. into the abdominal cavity, and the urine was examined for radio-active sulphur over the following 4 days. On the first day 53 per cent. of the total sulphur was excreted, and a total of 62 per cent. after 4 days; 30 per cent. was excreted in the oxidised form and 9·4 per cent. in the form of unchanged thiopentone or partial break-down products (extractable with dichlorethane at *p*H 4). In rats suffering from fatty dystrophy of the liver (induced by carbon tetrachloride), the initial rate of excretion was slower, but the total amount excreted in 4 days was unchanged. After either intravenous or intra-abdominal administration the greatest amount of radio-active sulphur was found in the liver; lesser quantities were found in the blood, lungs, heart and brain, in that order. E. H.