CORRESPONDENCE

To the Editors of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF OPHTHALMOLOGY.

SIRS,—I wish to thank Dr. Pines for his kind reference to me in his letter published in your issue of August last. However, it is my duty to point out that there is a very simple explanation for the case he cites as one of acute trachoma.

The history is that the emigrant was passed as non-trachomatous before leaving Poland; he developed an acute inflammation during the voyage to America and was refused admission.

It is obvious that the early signs of quiet trachoma were not recognized before embarkation, and that on the voyage a superimposed Koch-Weeks infection developed, which attracted the attention of the Port Medical Officers.

Even when the examination of a doubtful case of trachoma is made with every optical assistance it may be difficult to make a correct diagnosis; this I experienced last week in the case of a young child with no physical signs except a slight general reddening of the conjunctiva, and trachomatous vascularization of the upper fifth of the corneal periphery, seen only by using the reflected light of the slit-lamp, a phenomenon which I had missed on a previous occasion when seeing this child.

Yours faithfully,

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November 14, 1936.

To the Editors of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF OPHTHALMOLOGY.

SIRS,—I read with great interest the paper by Graeme Talbot on pernicious anaemia and retrobulbar neuritis (*Brit. Jl. of Ophthal.*, November, 1936). The cord symptoms of this disease ("myelitis") are not influenced by liver therapy, but respond well to vitamin B1. The rôle of vitamin B complex in pernicious anaemia was emphasized lately by Karczag. This treatment is indicated in the forementioned case anyhow; it would be highly interesting to note any influence on the optic nerve.

Several papers report successful administration of vitamin B1 in various forms of polyneuritis, pregnancy, toxic, etc. And though personally I had no experience with aneurin, I suggest to try it in various pathological conditions of the optic nerve, *e.g.*,