but it is of value to have all the available facts of so interesting and rare an affection collected up to date and analysed. Moreover, those of us who have not had leisure or ready accessibility to recent literature since 1939 will feel indebted to the author for calling attention to the extremely interesting history published by Holm and Lodberg in 1940 and to that of Tanaka published in 1938, showing the occurrence of total colour-blindness in more than one generation and, in the former case, in several related sibships.

CORRESPONDENCE

EXPERIMENTAL CORNEAL LESIONS

To the Editors of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF OPHTHALMOLOGY.

DEAR SIRS,—In a paper in the *Brit. Jl. Ophthalm.* of March, 1945, Sorsby and his co-workers stated that they were unable to produce experimental corneal lesions in the rabbit's eye with a number of organisms. At the most, localised opacities were produced which healed in a few days and were, they believe, essentially a pressure necrosis reaction. The intracorneal injection technique used was similar to that used by J. M. Robson and G. I. Scott (*Lancet*, I, p. 100, 1943) to study the effects of chemotherapeutic agents, and some of the strains used were actually provided by these authors.

Professor Sorsby kindly sent the manuscript of his paper to one of us before publication, and was invited to visit Edinburgh in order to see the technique and experimental lesions with the idea of elucidating the reasons for the discrepancy between his results and those described by Robson and Scott. He was, unfortunately, unable to come.

In a recent review in the *Journal* (October, 1945) on the use of penicillin in ophthalmology he stated: "There is, as yet, no valid experimental evidence that local penicillin therapy is effective in infections of the outer eye, for the work of Robson and Scott is based on an unsatisfactory experimental lesion. The same criticism probably applies to the report by Leopold, Holmes and La Motte, who worked with a bacillus allied to the Friedlander bacillus. Until there is available an experimental lesion of the cornea that does not heal spontaneously, such studies are of limited significance."

The lesions produced in Edinburgh were seen by a number of observers well versed in ophthalmological and experimental science, and they have also been produced without difficulty by Dr. Browhlee working at the Wellcome Physiological Research Laboratories.

In order that the lesion should be satisfactory for the investigation of methods of therapy it should be sufficiently severe and lasting to demonstrate clearly the effect of any treatment. The lesions which were produced in Edinburgh (and which Sorsby and his co-workers did not obtain) were satisfactory because (1) they caused severe destructive changes in the cornea, leading in some cases to actual perforation and (2) the effect of successful treatment lessened both the severity and duration of the lesions. This was especially clearly shown by the results obtained with local penicillin therapy.

It is worth adding that these experimental lesions were, as a rule much more severe than those commonly encountered in the human cornea.

It is regrettable that, without making an attempt to probe the reasons for the divergent results, Professor Sorsby should have indulged in uninformed criticism.

We are, Yours faithfully,

I. C. FRASER,
J. M. ROBSON,
A. A. B. SCOTT,
G. I. SCOTT.

DEPARTMENT OF PHARMACOLOGY,
UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH.
October 25, 1945.

NOTES

Professor A. W. Mulock Hower OUR Melbourne correspondent informs us that Professor Mulock Hower has arrived in Melbourne from Batavia. He, with other members of the Medical Faculty, was interned after the capture of Batavia on March 15, 1942, and he remained in prison for 2 years. He was allowed to do a little ophthalmological work between March and August, 1945, and in October, 1945, he was allowed to return to Batavia, where, after separation for three years, he rejoined his wife and daughter who had been interned in the infamous Tjideng camp.

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Ophthalmological
Society
of Australia.

THE next meeting of the Ophthalmological Society of Australia will be held in Melbourne in October, 1946.