To the Editor of The British Journal of Ophthalmology

Sir,—In the February number of the British Journal of Ophthalmology you publish a number of abstracts on trachoma amongst which are two on the work of Noguchi, Posey, and others on trachoma amongst the Indians of the South-West of America. Noguchi has apparently isolated, cultivated, and inoculated an organism which produces a condition exactly similar to the trachoma found amongst American Indians, but the histological appearance of the trachoma amongst the American Indians and the inoculated conjunctiva in monkeys and anthropoid apes differs considerably from the histological appearance of trachoma as found in this country, and in emigrants to this country from Europe. The principal difference is that the follicles in American Indian trachoma consists almost entirely of epithelioid cells surrounded by a comparatively small ring of lymphocytes. Although one or two epithelioid cells are usually found in follicles showing advanced changes in European trachoma, the follicles are made up of lymphocytes and plasma cells, most of the latter of which are in a state of degeneration. The infiltration and follicular formation also seems to be much more discrete than is found in European trachoma. It is rather suggestive that there is more than one form of infection which causes the disease. So far Mr. McCartney, Research Bacteriologist to the Metropolitan Asylums Board, has been unable to isolate the Noguchi organism, although in one case a somewhat similar organism was found, but it did not yield agglutination test with the blood serum from trachomatous cases.

Yours truly,

M. S. Mayou.

London,
2nd February, 1928.

Obituaries


Basil Thorn Lang was the only son of Mr. William Lang, Consulting Surgeon to the Royal London Ophthalmic Hospital, and Consulting Ophthalmic Surgeon to the Middlesex Hospital. He was educated at Abbotsholme, and at Trinity College, Cambridge, where he graduated in 1902 with First Class Honours in