it is still able to reproduce lesions characteristic of trachoma on the conjunctiva of the Barbary ape (singe) and of man.

Therefore it seems to be proved that trachoma is due to an infection of the conjunctiva with Rickettsias, these being the active principle of the trachomatous virus.

We consider that we have proved both morphologically and experimentally that trachoma is a Rickettsiosis, and that the louse forms a reservoir, and is perhaps one of the vectors of trachomatous virus, and probably the principal one.

REFERENCES

ANNOTATION

"Deuteranopes"

There has recently been some correspondence in the Times on this subject, which we should have considered more suitable for the "silly season" than for early spring. It would have fitted in well with such topics of enduring interest as the abolition of capital punishment, of corporal punishment and the old school tie.

One of the correspondents seemed to imagine that all colour blind people are deuteranopes, which is very wide of the mark. One seemed especially pleased to know of this label for his condition. It began with a pathetic wail of a deuteranope about his difficulties in distinguishing the colours of the ordinary penny and halfpenny postage stamps in use in this country at the present time. The deuteranope, more than any other person, is liable to put the wrong stamp on a postcard. But in either case it is to the advantage of the
revenue, though of course it is annoying for the deuteranope to find that he has overstamped papers which go at printed paper rates. It is still more annoying to the recipient of the deuteranope’s understamped postcard to have to pay “postage due” on its receipt. It seems a little difficult to expect the authorities to alter all the colours of the stamps to oblige a relatively small section of the public. There is, however, much more to be said in favour of altering the design of all the lower values; and it is an odd fact that whoever first settled the colours of the three lower values should have chosen red and green with one of the confusion colours. A minor question is raised if the deuteranope be a philatelist. He may if he is hasty, “chop, swop, barter or exchange” a red, green, or even a buff coloured stamp before he realises that he has not got it in his collection; that is, if he relies on colour alone. Only the rabid collector can appreciate the harrowed feelings of the colour-blind if this occurs. The correspondence quickly veered to the question of traffic signals. Here there is much to be said for altering the shape of the signals; giving a horizontal bar for the “stop,” and a vertical bar for the “go,” and leaving the amber round.

In the welter of statistics with which we are furnished by the Ministry of Transport, we do not think that any table has yet been prepared showing the number of accidents in the colour blind.

We doubt if the preparation of such a table would be worth the time spent on it, for we believe that the average colour-blind motorist is not only unaware of his defect but is able to appreciate the nature of the light from its position and relative brightness. If he waits overlong at a busy crossing when “go” is signalled, his sense of hearing, unless he is stone deaf, will enable him to hear the angry hoots of those distressed beings who are being held up behind him. Some enthusiasts would have every motorist examined for colour blindness before granting a licence, but the examination of the colour-blind is an exceedingly difficult business in many cases, and needs an expert.

THE COUNCIL OF BRITISH OPHTHALMOLOGISTS

The Annual Report

The Council presents its report for the year 1936-37. At its first meeting in July the following were elected officers:—President: Sir John Parsons; Vice-Presidents: Mr. R. A. Greeves and Mr. F. A. Juler; Hon. Treasurer: Mr. A. H. Levy; Hon. Secretary: Mr. M. L. Hepburn. The following were appointed to serve on