Dr. Silcock asked if there were any known cases of it following a burn. He recalled a case in Leicester which followed a burn of the leg and feet. It cleared up a certain amount but not wholly. The patient was given a pastille dose of X-ray, but responded very badly. He asked if anyone had done the Dick Test on pustular psoriasis.

Dr. Muende said that Dr. Silcock's suggestion of conducting the Dick Test in these cases was a very logical one, for in his opinion it was quite likely that such cases would present a positive reaction.

Following upon the discussion of the above cases, Dr. Silcock spoke of a recent experience which he thought might be of interest to the Meeting. He said that a short time ago several cases had been referred to him at the Leicester Hospital as having acute ringworm of the head, according to the medical officer who sent them to him, they all fluoresced under Wood's glass. When he examined them microscopically he found no evidence of ringworm infection. He wished to remind the Meeting that fluorescence of a kind was produced by mineral oils, such as paraffin moll, though animal fats failed to fluoresce. These particular cases it was the presence of vaseline which misled the medical officer in making the erroneous diagnosis.

Dr. Wigley said that in his opinion practically anything greasy fluoresced, and in addition starch did. He felt that ringworm of the scalp should always be confirmed by the microscope.

Dr. MacLeod said that he was so convinced about the typical way in which microsporon hair fluoresced, that he was confident in making the diagnosis under Wood's light.

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**LETTER TO THE EDITOR.**

**SINUSITIS AND MENTAL DISORDER.**

Sir,

The reference to Hysteria, criticised in your review of my book last week, may be explained as follows:—

Modern neurological research has established circumscribed cell groups in the hypothalamus and brain stem, focal disturbances of which result in a symptomatology accurately defining the locality of the lesion. Cases of Hysteria show symptomatology which in some cases can be analysed into groups of symptoms referable to functional disturbances of the corresponding areas of brain tissue (e.g., the righting reflexes of Magnus & de Kleijn depend upon the functional integrity of cell groups in the brain stem). As it is known that anaemia and congestion cause paralysis and heightened irritability of nervous tissue respectively, it is reasonable to assume that a case showing hysterical symptoms related to disturbances of known brain areas has a vascular irregularity of such brain areas. Such irregularities of blood-supply (described in my book as minute focal lesions) in my opinion not merely associated but are themselves the actual causes of the symptoms, and elsewhere in the book I discuss the possible etiology of such defects which has a bearing upon treatment.

I am,

Yours faithfully,

F. A. PICKWORTH.

Hollymoor,
Northfield,
Birmingham.

*June 7, 1935.*