between the shoulders. Should one for an explanation fall back upon the distributed capacity of the whole body of which the nerve center is of course a part? This explanation is unlikely.

Thus the curious phenomenon of listening to the telephone wires without the telephone receiver resolves itself into nothing but a method of using the slightly stretched horny skin as an unusual kind of telephone receiver, an electrostatic receiver, a condenser receiver. One condenser plate is the skin, the other the wire end or still better wire loop; and the two acoustically vibrate toward each other. The cochlea still seems to be requisite for hearing. It's a pity so far as hope for the deaf is in question.

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## COCCIDIOIDAL GRANULOMA

COCCIDIOIDAL granuloma is a disease of man and beast caused by Coccidioides immitis (Oidium coccidioides). The lesions may be in the skin, lungs and bones, and consist of granulomas and cold abscesses. The skin lesions are characterized by nodules and papulo-pustular eruptions. At times the lesion may resemble cutaneous tuberculosis; at other times syphilis or blastomycosis. The diagnosis is made by demonstration of the double contoured, endosporulating cells in the pus from the lesion, or in the stained sections of the tissue excised for this purpose. This should be further confirmed by cultural methods and by guinea-pig inoculation.

Cummins, Smith and Halliday,[1] in an epidemiologic survey of coccidioidal disease, collected 182 cases, the majority of which originated in California. East of the Mississippi River one case was collected from each of the following states: Illinois, South Carolina and Pennsylvania.

Recently the writer found this malady in a Negro, aged 36, a plasterer, with lesions on the right forearm and the right anal fold. This case originated, probably, in Tennessee.

It is probable that coccidioidal granuloma is widespread in this country.

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# QUOTATIONS

## BRITISH OPTICAL INSTRUMENTS

AN encouraging account of progress in the British optical instrument industry during the last five years is given in a memorandum prepared by the council of the British Optical Instrument Manufacturers' Association.

In the essential quality of transparency, British optical glass has always been superior to any made abroad. This superiority, it is stated, has been further increased in the last few years. Between 1885 and 1914 great advances were made in Germany in the production of glasses with new optical qualities, but the British remained superior in the manufacture of the finest quality of glass in large-sized disks, which present the greatest difficulty in manufacture. The Germans were pre-eminent only in the mass production of the smaller sizes, and in a larger range of kinds of glass. By 1928 the British manufacturers had extended their range of glasses, and in consequence of further advances since every durable and trustworthy kind of glass can now be obtained here. At the same time the ability to produce the very largest disks has been retained and even increased. Before the war the supply of spectacle lenses throughout the British Empire markets had very largely fallen into American hands. In recording gratifying advances in this field, the memorandum notes that of one particular make of spectacles developed and patented in this country 80 per cent. of the total production goes to the United States.

The memorandum states that the majority of cinema films, even in the United States, are made with lenses of British design made in Great Britain, and are also projected on the screen through British lenses. A range of instruments invented, patented, and made in this country was installed some years ago at the National Physical Laboratory for the testing of every kind of optical instrument, making it possible to state the results in numerical terms. Such tests, the memorandum points out, have established the superiority of the best British photographic lenses over the best made anywhere else. Part of this superiority is attributed to the new apparatus for testing. The two foremost manufacturers of photographic lenses in the United States and Germany, respectively, have recently purchased from the British inventor the right of using these test methods. Of prism binoculars it is reported that two of the highest class have been put on the market by a British manufacturer.

In the class of special surveying instruments, such as those used in the erection and maintenance of bridges, an instrument designed and made in Great Britain received, three years ago, the first prize offered by the German State Railways in a competition for

[1] W. T. Cummins, J. K. Smith, and C. H. Halliday, *Jour. Am. Med. Ass.*, 93: 1046, 1929.