

of a marked arteriolar contraction during anaphylaxis in the rabbit and by Rose and Weil's observations that an actual increase in plasma histamine can sometimes be detected. That the increase in plasma histamine in the intact animal is not more marked than it is, is probably due to the rapidity with which histamine is removed from the circulating blood. There is undoubtedly some release of histamine from other tissues as well as blood cells during anaphylaxis in the rabbit. We have been able to demonstrate this in the case of the lungs, using saline perfusion instead of blood. The amount that is liberated is quantitatively very small compared with that for the blood, however, so that it could not compensate for the histamine imprisoned with the leukocytes in the various capillary beds of the circulatory system.

There is substantial reason for believing, therefore, that histamine plays a significant rôle in the anaphylactic reaction in the rabbit, notwithstanding the fact that the total blood histamine value is reduced during the reaction.

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THE UTILIZATION OF IRON BY ANEMIC RATS

IN the issue of *SCIENCE* for February 9, 1940, a paper appeared by Miss Louise Otis and Dr. Margaret Cammack Smith on "Further Evidence of Sex Variation in the Utilization of Iron by Anemic Rats." I would like to point out that the finding of these investigators was previously established by Dr. Helen J. Hubbell and reported in the *Journal of Nutrition*, January, 1938, Vol. 15, pp. 91-102. This paper seems to have been overlooked by Dr. Smith and Miss Otis. That there is a sex difference in the utilization of iron was first suggested by Dr. Helen S. Mitchell in 1932, and shortly afterwards this observation was confirmed by Rose and Kung. In 1938 the influence of sex was quantitatively investigated by Dr. Hubbell, who found about 12 per cent. more iron in the bodies of female than of male rats which had been depleted to about 4 gms of hemoglobin per 100 cc of blood, and then given equivalent dosages of iron per gram of body weight until their hemoglobin reached the level of 14 gms per 100 cc of blood.

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THE "BABOON BOY" OF SOUTH AFRICA¹

ON the basis of evidence which was at that time

¹ The writer is indebted to Dr. Raymond Dart, professor

believed to be accurate and complete, the writer gave a brief account² of Lucas, the so-called "baboon boy" of South Africa, who has at various times been described in the popular press. In addition to excerpts from newspaper accounts, the writer published the contents of a letter written by Lieutenant Colonel O. J. T. Horak, deputy commissioner of the South African police commanding Cape Eastern Division, in which hearsay evidence regarding the discovery of Lucas among baboons was reported. A statement made by Constable W. J. Coetzer was also reproduced, in which he described in detail the story of Lucas' reported capture as told to him in 1921 by ex-Lance Sergeant Venter (now deceased). A brief statement of 152 words by Lucas himself, made before Constable G. G. Wright on May 8, 1939, was also reproduced, the statement describing his (Lucas') previous animal-like existence among the baboons. It was also reported that Lucas had been captured and taken to the Mental Hospital by the police, and that inquiry to date had failed to reveal a record of previous admission.

Since the time of the initial report, however, largely through the efforts of Dr. Dru Drury, 120 High Street, Grahamstown, and Dr. J. A. van Heerden, the present physician-superintendent of the Grahamstown Mental Hospital, additional information has been discovered. Dr. Drury has been able to interview and to examine Lucas, and has communicated with every available person who might possibly have had knowledge of the case.

It is now revealed that Lucas was admitted to the Grahamstown Mental Hospital as an indoor pauper on March 30, 1904, nothing being known about him or his people. He was certified at Burghersdorp by Drs. Herbert Caiger and J. Tandy Bolger on February 19 and 20, respectively. Upon admission, he was described as a Kafir boy approximately thirteen years of age, and the cause of admission was described as "injury to the head." He was said to show a "foolish and nervous manner," and was "destructive to his clothes and dirty in habits." When admitted, he was emaciated, and was described as suffering from a previously fractured right tibia and as having a large semilunar indentation over the left side of the skull for about five inches from tip to tip which, Lucas claimed, was the result of a kick from an ostrich. He was diagnosed as "acute mania," but being "neither epileptic, suicidal, nor dangerous," he was discharged as recovered on June 15, 1904. No mention of the baboon story was made in the Mental Hospital records.

of anatomy, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa, for making available to him a copy of the documents and reports upon which this account is based.

² *Amer. Jour. Psychol.*, 53: 128-133, 1940; *SCIENCE*, 91 (2360): 291-292, 1940.