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"rapidly diminishing," at least not in the farm milieu, where penicillin and the tetracyclines retain their effectiveness as feed ingredients for farm animals after many years (2). There have been incidents, of course, in which prolonged use of antibiotics in clinical medicine has been followed by intractable resistance to pathogens. The disparity between the two sets of observations has not been explained.

THOMAS H. JUKES

Department of Biophysics and Medical Physics, University of California, Berkeley 94720

References

1. T. H. Jukes, E. L. R. Stokstad, R. R. Taylor, T. J. Cunha, H. M. Edwards, G. B. Meadows, *Arch. Biochem.* **26**, 324 (1950).
2. V. W. Hayes, in *The Use of Drugs in Animal Feeds* (Publication 1679, National Academy of Sciences, Washington, D.C., 1969), p. 11; T. MacAuliffe, A. Pietraszek, J. McGinnis, *Poult. Sci.* **55**, 183 (1976).

Coca, Not Cocoa

In the issue of 12 September, a letter of mine appeared protesting the confusion in a previous article (News and Comment, 11 July, p. 256) of coca leaf with isolated cocaine. However, you turned "coca" into "cocoa" in the text of the letter, the title, and the table of contents.

Cocoa is what some people drink for breakfast. It is a product of the cacao tree, *Theobroma cacao* L. Coca is the leaf of several species of *Erythroxylum*. *Erythroxylum* is unrelated to *Theobroma* botanically, chemically, and pharmacologically.

I do not advocate research on the therapeutic use of cocoa, although I consider it a pleasant and innocuous substance in moderation. I do urge research on coca, starting with an understanding of what it is and is not.

ANDREW T. WEIL

Botanical Museum of Harvard University, Oxford Street, Cambridge, Massachusetts 02138

Kidney Transplants

The Research News article by Jean L. Marx on improving the success of kidney transplants (8 Aug., p. 673) greatly emphasizes the benefit of transfusions in reducing the risk of kidney graft rejection. Yet there is no mention that Gerhard Opelz and Paul Terasaki were the first to report (1), in 1973 and 1974, the beneficial effect of transfusion in kidney graft

survival, a finding which came as a surprise at a time when transfusion was considered a contraindication for kidney graft candidates.

Are we not forgetting the pioneers?

MARILENA FOTINO

New York Blood Center, 310 East 67 Street, and Cornell University Medical College, New York 10021

References

1. G. Opelz, D. P. S. Sengar, M. R. Mickey, P. I. Terasaki, *Transplant. Proc.* 5, 253 (1973); G. Opelz and P. I. Terasaki, *Lancet* 1974-II, 696 (1974).

With respect to Marx's article of 8 August, it should be noted that there is still isolated disagreement as to the beneficial effect of transfusion before transplant on survival of kidney grafts from cadaver donors. An analysis (1) of the transfusion effect on 514 transplants performed at seven centers in Illinois demonstrates that recipients who were given transfusions before transplant experienced fewer early graft failures than those who were not. However, the Illinois study also demonstrated an increase in late graft failure in recipients who were given such transfusions, leading to a 2- to 7-year cumulative graft survival that was not different in recipients who received transfusions before transplant and those who did not.

In our own small transplant series from cadaver donors (82), we have not been able to discern any beneficial effect of transfusion before transplant after 1 or 4 years of follow-up (among recipients who were given such transfusions, graft survival after 1 year was 75 percent and after 4 years, 53 percent; among recipients who were not, it was 70 percent and 50 percent, respectively). We certainly do not find the data in favor of transfusion before transplant "overwhelming." We electively give transfusions to all patients during transplant operations but find no justification for deliberately giving transfusions before a transplant.

P. R. McCONNACHIE

Memorial Medical Center,
Springfield, Illinois 62702

A. G. BIRTCH

Southern Illinois University
School of Medicine, Springfield 62708

References

1. O. M. Jonasson and M. F. Mozes, personal communication.

Erratum: In the report by R. Ganapathy (22 Aug., p. 921), Pd should have been 2 instead of 20 on line 2 in the middle column of p. 922, and Au should have been 3×10^{-2} instead of 3×10^{-1} on line 6 in the same column.

Erratum: In the article by R. Hekiniian *et al.* (28 Mar., p. 1433), in line 3 of the caption for Fig. 7 (p. 1440), "Fe-rich clay-like material" should have read "Fe-bearing opaline material."

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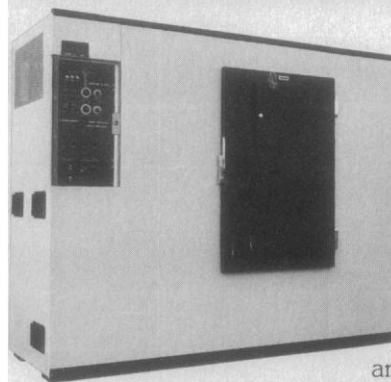
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