

Interest in the Rous chicken tumors has led to discussions in regard to their importance in the general study of malignant growths. The same questions propounded concerning the nature of the chicken tumors will undoubtedly be raised in regard to this rabbit myxoma. Although in this disease of rabbits there are myxomatous growths, the disease picture as a whole more closely resembles infectious processes than it does neoplastic ones. This difference is emphasized by the highly contagious nature of the rabbit disease, a condition never recorded in regard to chicken tumors. The fact that the pathological picture in the epidermis differs so much from the one occurring in the subcutaneous tissues makes the rabbit myxoma an extremely interesting disease. Immediately, one might ask whether more than one virus is being dealt with, inasmuch as it has been shown<sup>5</sup> that some tumors are excellent places for the growth and persistence of certain viruses. This question cannot be answered at the present time.

This is a preliminary report.

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<sup>1</sup> Sanarelli, G., *Centr. Bak.*, Abt. 1, 1898, xxiii, 865.

<sup>2</sup> Splendore, A., *Centr. Bak.*, Abt. 1, *Orig.*, 1909, xlviii, 300.

<sup>3</sup> Moses, A., *Mem. Inst. Oswaldo Cruz*, 1911, iii, 46.

<sup>4</sup> da Rocha-Lima, H., v. Prowazek, *Handbuch der pathogenen Protozoen*, 1920, Leipzig, ii, 959.

<sup>5</sup> Rivers, T. M., and Pearce, L., *J. Exp. Med.*, 1925, xlvi, 523.

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### Blood Groups Among the Yoruba Tribe of West African Negroes.

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The Yoruba tribe of West African negroes, inhabiting the southwestern portion of Nigeria, W. A., is numerically large, consisting, it is estimated, of 2,000,000 individuals. Its members are distinguished by the tribal mark of three parallel horizontal scars on each cheek. Though this tribal marking has been strictly adhered to in the past, the younger generations are not marking their children in all instances, especially in the more cosmopolitan city of Lagos. The presence of these distinguishing marks was used by us to establish the individual's Yoruban descent.

During 1926 samples of blood from 325 individuals of the Yoruba tribe were collected in 0.9 per cent saline containing 2 per cent sodium citrate. After centrifuging and washing, suspensions of the red cells in normal saline were tested for agglutinable properties with known Group I and Group II human sera. These sera, free from preservative, were brought from New York in hermetically sealed 1.0 cc. ampules, and were kept continuously on ice up to the time of use. The open slide method was employed, in which 1 drop of serum was mixed with 1 drop of a heavy suspension of red cells on a slide. The reactions were rapid, clear cut, and easily readable with the naked eye, although the microscope was used from time to time as a check.

Adopting the Jansky classification, the results were:

Group I — 170 persons ----- 52.3 per cent.  
 Group II — 70 " ----- 21.5 per cent,  
 Group III— 75 " ----- 23.0 per cent.  
 Group IV— 10 " ----- 3.2 per cent.

The bloods were obtained at the following cities:

## Lagos

Abeokuta

Baptist High School for Girls: women----- 15

## *Ibadan*

Prison: men ----- 35

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