

normal eggs showed no symptoms other than some neutrophilopenia and, like normal animals, developed the typical disease of experimental measles when both groups were tested with active virus from human cases. Two monkeys previously recovered from infection with 4th or 5th measles egg passage material respectively, when retested at the same time as the above normals and those previously given normal egg material, remained perfectly normal.

We are investigating whether the milder syndrome produced in monkeys with later egg passages is due to modification or disappearance of the agent of measles.

In association with Dr. Joseph Stokes, jun., and Dr. Gerald O'Neill of the Children's Hospital, Philadelphia, a study is being made of the effects produced in several groups of children by inoculation with egg passage material.

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<sup>1</sup> Burnet, F. M., *Med. Res. Coun., Spec. Rep. Ser. No. 220* (1936).  
<sup>2</sup> Blake, F. G., and Trask, J. D., *J. Exp. Med.*, **33**, 385 (1921).

#### Names of some Atlantic Loggerhead Turtles

MR. H. W. PARKER in commenting upon my letter to NATURE<sup>1</sup> disagreed with my opinion that the turtle Schöepff<sup>2</sup> had figured as *Testudo caretta* Linn. was the olive-backed Mexican loggerhead and not the common brown-red form.

My reasons for this opinion are that I have not come across any brown-red loggerheads with four enlarged inframarginal scutes, whereas de Sola<sup>3</sup> figures an undoubted Mexican olive-backed loggerhead showing exactly the reverse arrangement of inframarginals to Schöepff's figure, namely three on the right and four on the left. There is no doubt that de Sola's photograph depicts the Mexican form, since it possesses only a single enlarged mandibular scale on each side, as does Schöepff's figure, whereas the brown-red loggerhead generally possesses three, sometimes two<sup>4</sup>. It will also be noticed that Schöepff's other figure, a carapace in dorsal view, possesses the subcircular outline characteristic of the Mexican, whereas the carapace of the brown-red form possesses a relatively compressed pygal area<sup>5</sup>.

I consider this evidence sufficient for regarding Schöepff's figure a representation of the Mexican loggerhead. Parker<sup>1</sup> has already explained that Linné's description of *Testudo caretta* is too vague for specific identification, consequently this name should be available for the first recognizable specific account of a loggerhead described as *Testudo caretta*. The first to do so was Schöepff<sup>2</sup>, who figures the Mexican olive-backed loggerhead. I agree with Parker<sup>1</sup> that Daudin's name *Testudo caouana*<sup>6</sup> is inapplicable to this turtle, but he gives a good reason for applying it to the brown-red loggerhead of the Atlantic.

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<sup>1</sup> Parker, NATURE, **144**, 156 (1939).

<sup>2</sup> Schöepff, "Historia Testudinum" (1792).

<sup>3</sup> de Sola, *Bull. N. York Zoo. Soc.*, **34**, 137 (1931).

<sup>4</sup> Deraniyagala, "Tetrapod Reptiles of Ceylon", **1** (1939).

<sup>5</sup> Hay, *Proc. U.S. Nat. Mus.*, **34**, 183 (1903).

<sup>6</sup> Daudin, *Hist. Nat. Rept.*, **2**, 54 (1802).

THERE appears to be no authority for the belief that, where the original description is unrecognizable, the name is applied on the basis of the first recognizable account which appears afterwards under the same name. If the work of subsequent authors is taken into account at all, that of Lacépède, Bonnaterre and Daudin must also be considered. They proposed the specific name *caouana* as a substitute for the Linnean *caretta* and in doing so might be considered to have fixed the Linnean name.

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#### Training of Engineers

THE reference to the training of engineers which appeared in the issue of NATURE of July 29, p. 218, is of special interest at the present time in view of the forthcoming conference convened by the Institution of Civil Engineers for February 1940, and of the grave shortage of engineers, not only in Great Britain, but also in the Dominions. The remark made in the latter part of the article on the perfunctory interest shown by the governing bodies of our engineering institutions in this question can be fully endorsed from long personal experience. Thus the Institution of Municipal and County Engineers examines many hundreds of candidates yearly, but remains solely an examining body, and offers no official assistance to those candidates who are not in a position to go to a university or recognized technical college for their training, and this applies also to the Institution of Civil Engineers itself.

The only way in which such candidates can obtain their technical training is either by private study, a most difficult task at best, or by means of a correspondence course, and I have been unable to find a single engineering college in Great Britain catering for such men which possesses any backing of a statutory nature such as is possessed by universities and technical colleges. In other words, candidates of this category are forced to obtain their technical training by means of a correspondence course organized by a 'college' trading solely for private profit. Many of these establishments are no doubt efficient enough as regards the getting of candidates through examinations, but this does not necessarily produce well-trained engineers, and up to the present there has been no provision whatsoever in Great Britain for correspondence courses organized by authorities financed by public funds.

In the Union of South Africa, such provision is made by the Witwatersrand Technical College, with the special object of reaching those men who by reason of position or the location of their work are unable to obtain their technical training at a university or technical college, and similar provision is made in certain respects by the University of Melbourne, Australia. In my opinion, the immediate need is the inclusion on education committees of engineers who are really interested in the training of this class of man, and the active co-operation of education authorities with the view of meeting their need by the provision of adequate correspondence courses entirely divorced from considerations of private profit.

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