

Fig. 1

ten and eleven weeks. The spinal cord shows twenty-five segments; and cervical and lumbar enlargements are also made out. The second one is that of an embryo the C.R. length of which is 6.2 cm. Its age

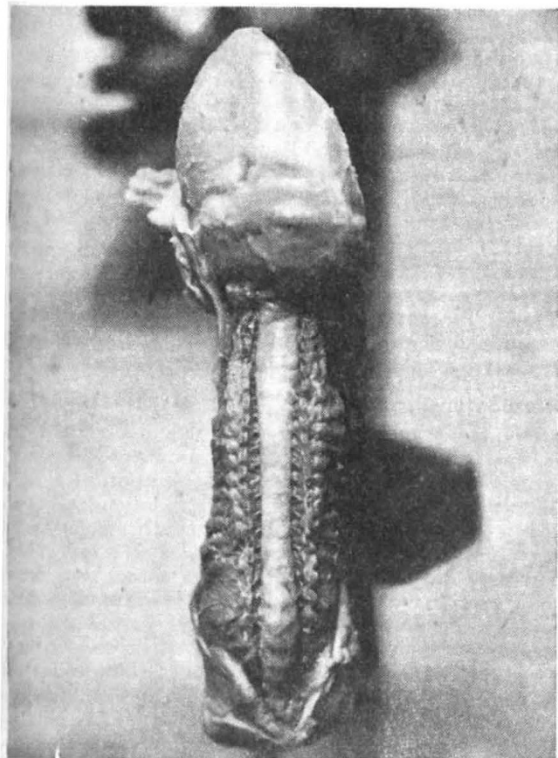


Fig. 2

will be between eleven and twelve weeks. It is slightly older than the first one. The spinal cord shows clearly the cervical and lumbar enlargements and twenty-six segments. That the segmentation is a regular one and not caused by pressure of the vertebrae can be seen by the position of the nerves that emerge out from each segment (Fig. 2).

Further work is in progress.

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¹ Paterson, A. M., "Manual of Embryology" (1915), 88.

² Keith, Sir Arthur, "Human Embryology and Morphology" (fifth edition) (1933), 101.

Blood Groups of Burmese

THERE does not appear to be any record in the literature of blood-group tests made on Burmese subjects; we therefore took a recent opportunity of testing the blood of a number of subjects with regard to *ABO* and *Rh* groups. We had intended to group many hundreds, but owing to unforeseen circumstances had to abandon the work after only about two hundred persons had been tested. However, in view of the absence of other published data and the present interest in the racial distribution of the *Rh* factor, we are publishing this brief report on the results.

229 subjects were tested against anti-*A*, anti-*B* and anti-*Rh* sera. The anti-*Rh* serum was a potent sample that had been dried in small ampoules by Dr. R. I. N. Greaves. A sample has recently been submitted to Dr. R. R. Race, who reports that the serum contains anti-*C* + anti-*D*¹ agglutinins with a very little anti-*Du*².

The results were as follows:

Total no. tested	O	A	B	AB	Rh+	Rh-
229	83	60	68	18	229	0
	(36.2%)	(26.2%)	(29.7%)	(7.9%)	(100%)	nil

A few bloods failed to react with the anti-*Rh* serum on first testing, but on being re-tested with the same serum they gave positive results. These same few bloods were also tested against at least one other dried anti-*Rh* serum, and all gave positive results. All these anti-*Rh* sera gave consistently clear-cut negative reactions with known *Rh*-negative cells.

Of the 229 subjects tested, 155 claimed to be 'pure Burmese' (Anglo-Burmese and Anglo-Indian-Burmese were excluded), 57 were Karens, 13 Chins and the remaining 4 Kachins.

The absence (or certainly very low incidence) of the *Rh*-negative type in Burmese is not unexpected in view of previous reports³ of a very low incidence in Chinese.

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¹ Race, R. R., *Nature*, 153, 771 (1944).

² Stratton, F., *Nature*, 158, 25 (1946).

³ Levine, P., and Wong, H., *Amer. J. Obstet. Gynec.*, 45, 832 (1943).