Whole blood specimens were collected in sterile 'Venules' or sterile corked specimen tubes and sent to Johannesburg by air for examination, where they arrived about a week after collection. Sixty samples collected in specimen tubes arrived showing a moderate degree of hæmolysis, whereas the specimens collected in the 'Venules' arrived in excellent condition. The bloods were tested for the sickle cell trait using the sodium hydrosulphite method of Williams and Mackey¹ or the sodium meta-bisulphite method of Daland and Castle². Fifteen specimens were tested by both these methods and by the sealed coverslip method read after 24 hr. Fifty-eight specimens were examined in parallel with specimens of known sickle cells in order to assess the efficiency of the reducing agent used. These controls invariably showed marked sickling within 30 min. The specimens of Bushmen bloods were examined 30, 60 and 90 min. after adding the reducing agent. All of 118 specimens examined were found to be negative.

The age- and sex-distribution of fifty-eight specimens is shown in the table. The youngest individual tested was a male aged five years—the oldest was a male aged fifty-six. The remaining sixty specimens were random samples obtained from the population of the area. At the same time, 119 specimens of blood from members of the Mpukushu tribe living in the Western Caprivi Zipfel were also examined with similar negative results.

Age in years	Males	Females	Total
0-5	1	1	2
6-10	8	5	13
11-15	2	5	7
16-20	4	2	6
21-25	2	5	7
26-30	3	8	11
31-35	—	5	5
36-40	3	1	4
41-45	1	1	2
46-50	—	—	—
51-55	—	—	—
56-60	1	—	1
Total	25	33	58

The ethnological importance of the absence of the sickle cell trait in the Bushman, contrasting with the high incidence of the trait in the black races of Central, East and West Africa, and especially in the Pygmies of Central Africa³, will be discussed elsewhere.

I wish to thank Dr. Kuschke, regional health officer of the Okavango area, who collected these specimens.

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Aug. 12.

¹ Williams, A. W., and Mackey, J. P., *J. Clin. Path.*, **3**, 141 (1949).

² Daland, G. A., and Castle, W. B., *J. Lab. and Clin. Med.*, **33**, 1082 (1948).

³ van den Berghe, L., and Janssen, P., *Ann. Soc. Belge de Med. Trop.*, **30**, 1553 (1950).

Tainting of Tobacco by a Dichloropropene-Dichloropropane Soil Fumigant

I wish to refer to the letter under the above title from Dr. C. J. Shepherd in *Nature* of December 20, p. 1073. The work mentioned was carried out while Dr. Shepherd was employed by the Tobacco Pest Control Research Scheme here and was submitted to the Executive Committee, of which I was chairman.

After very full consideration it was decided that the results of this particular investigation should not be published, as it was of a preliminary nature and carried out on a commercial crop on a farm. In other words, no control was possible and it is even conceivable that the tainting resulted from incorrect use of the fumigant. The Tobacco Pest Control Research Scheme has ceased operations and its activities have been handed over to the Tobacco Research Board, which has well-designed experiments in progress to check this using both dichloropropene-dichloropropane and ethylene dibromide.

I appreciate that Dr. Shepherd's communication is in the nature of a preliminary notification of work in progress, and this could have been equally well achieved by omitting the first paragraph. I am concerned, however, lest a completely wrong impression be given regarding the quality of Rhodesian tobacco. The estimate of five per cent of the crop being affected is a very wild guess, and the considered opinion of authorities here is that the little tainting noticed was due either to failure to follow instructions for the use of the fumigant, or to the abnormal wet weather experienced at time of planting.

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A Riss-Würm Interglacial Deposit at Ipswich

DURING recent months, excavations for new sewage works near Ipswich have exposed lacustrine deposits, between the Upper Chalky Boulder Clay (Gipping) and contorted beds, which there is every reason to believe are referable to the Würm glaciation.

The deposits, consisting of silt, calcareous clay and peaty detrital mud, are cut into and are overlaid with mixed materials which elsewhere in the district can be demonstrated to be equivalent to a 'till' with derived masses of Gipping C.B.C. included. There is a very rich molluscan fauna with which are associated bones and teeth of field mice, voles, frogs or toads, fishes and the European freshwater tortoise (*Emys orbicularis* L.). Bison and *Elephas primigenius* are indicated by fragmentary remains; but the use of mechanical excavators results in breaking up the bones of the larger fauna, few of which are found. A split deer radius bearing cuts suggests nearby human occupation.

It is evident these deposits are contemporary with the well-known Stoke Tunnel Beds examined by the late Miss N. F. Layard, where mammoth and *Emys* were also discovered together with *Bos primigenius*, *Cervus elaphus*, *Equus caballus*, and lion, bear, wolf, fox, etc.

The molluscs and pollen grains are being studied. A number of coleopteran fragments are available for examination.

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