We agree that a statistical analysis of our results would have been appropriate. Analysis of our results by both parametric (Student's t test) and non-parametric (Mann-Whitney test) methods shows that culture in the presence of ldyO and ly0 non-parametric (Mann-Whitney test) results by both parametric (Student's t test) and trypanosome extract produces significantly higher counts (P = <0.05) than culture in control medium. This applies when both original and logged data are analysed. A stimulation ratio of two or greater, often considered a criterion of significant lymphocyte stimulation, was observed in all 10 subjects with the trypanosome extract at a concentration of 10%, with seven out of 10 at a concentration of 1% and in three out of 10 at a concentration of 0.1%.

The results obtained with pure lymphocyte preparations must be interpreted with caution as only poor stimulation was observed. However, it is of interest that some stimulation of T lymphocytes as well as B lymphocytes was observed in view of recent reports (Jayawardena et al., 1978; Weinbaum et al., 1978) that activation of T helper cells may play an important part in the pathogenesis of the hypergammaglobulinaemia of malaria and trypanosomiasis.

We are, etc.,
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Modification of Harada-Mori culture method
SIR—In the report of the 1963 African CCTA/WHO Conference on ancylostomiasis, the Harada-Mori method of culture on filter paper in tubes was recommended for the identification of helminthiases having a free larval stage. I have used this method widely in parallel with the cone-shaped coal culture method used at the Institut Pasteur in Paris, in which however I have used closed boxes (Dancescu, 1968). In both methods I have often identified larvae, of course with the precaution recommended by HSIEH (1963) for cultures in tubes.

Working together with Dr. Moustapha Mahjoub, former student of the Medical School of Bucharest, we have noted that by using the Harada-Mori method and killing the larvae by heat at 55°C, the larvae disintegrated rapidly, so that details of their internal structure were more difficult to observe.

Accordingly, we used Lugol's iodine to kill and stain larvae on slides. The larvae at the time of manipulation were, of course, alive and therefore additional care was required. Lugol's solution fixes the larvae and stains their internal structure very well. Our experience showed this procedure to give much better results for the identification of species.

I am, etc.,
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Immunosuppression caused by primaquine
SIR—The in vitro studies carried out by THONG et al. (1978), as reported in this journal, have shown that primaquine suppresses the immune mechanism, as do various drugs in other diseases.

Primaquine is the only drug available for sterilization of gametocytes and treatment of exo-erythrocytic forms of Plasmodium vivax and P. malariae, and has been used extensively all over the world in malaria eradication programmes. The expression used by these authors that "primaquine may be detrimental to recovery from serious infections" is rather misleading and may cause medical officers in rural areas and personnel in malaria eradication campaigns to discontinue the use of this valuable drug.

It is not known which part of the immune mechanism is responsible for producing protective antibodies and there is no information available on whether drugs stimulate or depress such antibodies.

I shall also be pleased to know whether the authors have conducted any clinical trials in patients to prove what they have found in their in vitro studies, namely, that primaquine does in fact hinder recovery from serious infections. Until more clinical evidence is available primaquine should continue to be used judiciously by clinicians and