The patient's pedigree indicates that ichthyosis in this family is of the sex-linked type.7 The proband is the only female in the family affected with ichthyosis. The presence of sex-linked ichthyosis in this girl with only one X chromosome indicates that, in this case of gonadal dysgenesis, the paternal sex chromosome is missing.

Department of Pediatrics, Kaiser Foundation Hospital, Oakland, California 94611.

IRENE L. SOLOMON
EDGAR J. SCHOEN.

PYCHOLOGICAL HAZARDS OF CONVALESCENCE AFTER MYOCARDIAL INFARCTION

Sir,-Dr. Risteard Mulcahy (June 12, p. 1236) asks on what evidence you base the recommendation in your editorial (May 22, p. 1055) that hard physical activity should not be undertaken within three months of a cardiac infarct. The only worth-while evidence would be derived from a large controlled series, half of whom restrict their physical activity and half do not, with a long follow up. Your recommendation is derived, not from evidence, but from a theory as to what is thought to happen to infarcted heart-muscle if the patient exercises. You are providing thereby evidence which is taken for granted they that they would not return to any kind of work for months. All this gave them ample opportunity to ponder on the harshness of fate and it was taken for granted they they would not return to any kind of work for months. All this gave them ample opportunity to ponder on the harshness of fate and it was taken for granted they they would not

Mr. F. A. BURDEN said that the Littlewood Committee had recommended that the inspectorate, which under the Act had to visit all registered persons from time to time, should be increased to 21, but there were still only 13 inspectors. In view of the growth in the number of animal experiments, some new advisory body should be set up to examine new proposals and guide experimenters on the complicated matters of technique, and suggest alternatives to vivisection. Mr. KENNETH LOMAS said that many of the committee’s recommendations were already out of date; a new body should be set up to report inside 2 years, and its report debated within 2 years at the very most. Mr. JOHN STRADLING THOMAS strongly supported the sug-

Parliament

Experiments on Animals

In a debate on the findings of the Littlewood Committee on Experiments on Animals, which were published in April, 1965, Mr. MARK CARLISLE, Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department, said that the Government had not as yet given detailed consideration to the Committee's report, and he could not therefore enter into any commitment regarding future action. What emerged from the report was that at the time there existed a crisis of confidence over the control of animal experiments, but the Committee had found that many fears were groundless. The risk of duplication of experiments was small, there was no evidence of serious wastage of animals, and there was no foundation for the suspicion that experimenters had no concern for the animals they used. However, administration of the Cruelty to Animals Act, 1876, had been placed under a great strain, and its provisions lately had not matched up to modern scientific and technological requirements. The Committee, in fact, did not feel that there were any great abuses in need of urgent reform, but thought that the law should be modernised in order to facilitate the type of supervision already applied to animal experiments; the Government accepted the committee’s views. The annual totals of experiments reported by licensees had steadily increased since 1963; the estimated total for 1970 was 5-65 million. Many of these experiments, however, caused the animal no pain. There seemed to be a widespread belief that implementation of the Littlewood report would drastically reduce the number of experiments, but this was not so.

Mr. A. BURDEN said that the Littlewood Committee had recommended that the inspectorate, which under the Act had to visit all registered persons from time to time, should be increased to 21, but there were still only 13 inspectors. In view of the growth in the number of animal experiments, some new advisory body should be set up to examine new proposals and guide experimenters on the complicated matters of technique, and suggest alternatives to vivisection. Mr. KENNETH LOMAS said that many of the committee's recommendations were already out of date; a new body should be set up to report inside 2 years, and its report debated within 2 years at the very most. Mr. JOHN STRADLING THOMAS strongly supported the sug-

study of peripheral F bodies in the circulation of pregnant women permits the evaluation of this technique. According to the work of Walknowska et al.,11 the circulation during pregnancy contains male fetal cells at a level of about 0-35% when the pregnancy results in a male. We obtained 10 ml. of peripheral blood from 32 primiparae, and the number of F bodies was determined in 500-1000 peripheral lymphocytes of each using the above technique. The number of F bodies varied between 4-2 and 0-0%. The average number of F bodies was 1-08% ± 1-2. However, the number of F bodies was not related to the sex of the subsequently delivered child in a statistically significant way (0.05 >
