Hydroxyproline Excretion in Idiopathic, Congenital, and Paralytic Scoliosis

Sir,

In their article 'Bone Collagen Turnover in Idiopathic Scoliosis Estimated from Total Hydroxyproline Excretion', Zorab, Clark, Cotrel, and Harrison (*Archives of Disease in Childhood* (1971), **46**, 828) confirm that the 24-hour excretion of urinary total hydroxyproline in French children with idiopathic scoliosis is higher than in English control children matched for sex and age. They comment that '... it would have been preferable for the comparison to have been made between scoliotic and normal children drawn from the same country. This was not possible.' It may be of interest therefore that such a comparison is possible from an earlier investigation (Benson, 1965a, b). In this study, mean 24-hour urinary total hydroxyproline excretion was found to be higher in 37 children with idiopathic scoliosis; 15 English and 22 French in all age groups studied in both sexes, when compared with 53 English

controls matched for sex and age. There were no significant differences between French and English children with idiopathic scoliosis. In 13 other children (5 French and 8 English) in whom scoliosis was associated with congenital vertebral malformation, fused ribs, or neurological disorder, the 24-hour urinary excretion of total hydroxyproline was within normal limits.

P. F. BENSON
Paediatric Research Unit,
Guy's Hospital Medical School,
London SE1.

REFERENCES

- Benson, P. F. (1965a). Hydroxyproline excretion in scoliosis. In *Proceedings of a Symposium on Scoliosis*, p. 47. Ed. by P. A. Zorab. Institute of Diseases of the Chest, London, July, 1965.
Benson, P. F. (1965b). Unpublished data.