Influenza: complement fixation test.

	Virus A	Virus B
30th March	1/8	1/8
14th April	1/64	1/8

Research in the Faculties.

The foundation of the twentytwo Regional Faculties of the College in the United Kingdom, and five others overseas, has considerably widened and strengthened the research organisation of the College. Under the new constitution for these faculties, the Board of each Faculty will set up a Faculty Research Committee of about six members and associates of the College and of other persons co-opted from the research department of local hospitals, medical school or university.

All members and associates working on Faculty Research Committees must be at pains to ensure that any investigations which are carried out shall be of as high a standard as possible; it will not be in the interests of the College if work is carried out in its name which is not of the highest quality. It is for this reason that the Research Committee of the College Council - the College Research Committee - asks the chairmen and secretaries of Faculty Research Committees to submit protocols of proposed faculty investigations for consideration before they are started. It also asks all members and associates who wish as individuals to publish work in the name of the College to submit this to Council before publication. The College Research Committee will thus be in a position to know of work contemplated, or being carried out by other faculties. From this knowledge two similar investigations might be linked, or so designed that the results of one were comparable or complementary with those of the other.

It is hoped that each faculty will form its own Faculty Research Register and keep it up to date from the supplements supplied by the Registrar of the Research Committee, so that the chairman of each Faculty Research Committee will know of the research-minded doctors in his

area and their particular interests.

These faculty Research Registers will be valuable in providing a ready-to-hand observer network for the study of epidemic diseases. Arrangements may be made with the secretary of the faculty for the rapid notification of outbreaks of unusual illness to reach quickly all members of the faculty research register and perhaps those of neighbouring faculties. This warning system has already proved of value to the Epidemic Observation Unit.

Carried out slowly and with method, the work of faculty research committees will be of the greatest value in encouraging and helping those with the research habit of mind, rather than attempting to whip up interest in research among those who have no natural inclination towards it.

Officers of the faculty research committees are asked to keep in the closest possible touch with the College Research Committee, which should be able to help them from experience gained by other faculties. Much of this contact will necessarily be by post; but it is hoped that when occasion arises members of faculty research committees will be invited to attend meetings of the College Research Committee. It is proposed to arrange at least once a year, a conference of the chairmen and secretaries of the research committees of all faculties. The first of these conferences has been arranged for the 21st November, 1954, the day after the Annual General Meeting of the College.

PROGRESS REPORT

(1) The Epidemic Observation Unit.

Members will have received the Clinical Supplement to Research Newsletter No. 4 giving an account of "Ghore Fever" and of its observation in different parts of the country. Much valuable experience has been gained in this study, and future outbreaks of conditions of this nature will no doubt receive even more accurate and consistent observation.