

highest percentage of the group A among the three groups of Bihar compared and equal to that of the Bagdis of Bengal. The Bagdi blood groups were obtained from South Bengal in the district of 24 Perganas where they live upon agriculture and fishing. The Bagdis have the highest percentage of B and the lowest of O. The Santals also possess a high percentage of B and an almost equal amount of O. The Bihar Aborigines are characterised by a high frequency of the genes R (group O) and B while the Bagdis possess chiefly the genes A and B. The gene A may have come as an intrusive element from the south, but the final solution of all and kindred questions will have to wait till adequate materials have been obtained from all the contiguous territories.

In carrying out this work, I received a great deal of help from Dr. E. W. E. Macfarlane, D.Sc. (Lond.), for which thanks are due to her.

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December 2, 1937.

<sup>1</sup> Sarkar, S. S., *Curr. Sci.*, 1933, 1, 318.

<sup>2</sup> (a) Macfarlane, E. W. E., *Curr. Sci.*, 1936, 4, 653.

(b) Aiyappan, A., *Man*, 1936, 255.

LAST week Mr. S. S. Sarkar and I visited the villages where he had previously obtained Bagdi bloods. The distribution of the blood groups in the earlier sample of 44 Bagdis showed an unusually high percentage of Group B. We are able to classify the bloods of 20 more in these villages and I have also tested 16 Bagdi bloods at Budge Budge. We now have data from 80 Bagdis of the 24 Perganas District, Bengal, and find that the percentages of the four blood groups and the frequencies of the blood group genes both show a strong resemblance to those found among the Santals by Mr. Sarkar. Mr. Sarkar has asked me to supplement his recent communication to you for the data no doubt give a more correct idea of the following blood group situation in the Bagdis:—

No. of Bagdis 80 ; Group O 25 (31.25%),  
A 18 (22.5%), B 28 (35.0%), AB 9  
(11.25%). Frequencies of the genes:  
 $p = 17.98$ ,  $q = 26.07$ ,  $r = 55.95$ .

EILEEN W. E. MACFARLANE.

O/o Burmah Shell, Budge Budge,  
Bengal,  
December 4, 1937.

### Distribution of the Genus *Sagitta* during the Several Months of the Year in the Indian Seas.

IN the March issue of the *Records of the Indian Museum*, I saw a paper by Dr. C. C. John on "Seasonal Variations in the Distribution of *Sagitta* of the Madras Coast" based on collections made by the University Zoological Laboratory, Madras, but worked out independently at Agra. The main conclusion of John is: "The distribution of *Sagitta* is at its minimum when the rainfall is very heavy, but it cannot be applied as a general rule that the distribution of *Sagitta* is inversely proportional to the rainfall, because slight occasional showers or irregular rains do not affect their intensity. From these observations the conclusion is drawn that *Sagitta* disappears from the surface plankton when the salinity of the sea-water is appreciably altered by the admixture of rain and tributary waters" (p. 92). As I have not been able to correlate the results of John (1937) with those recorded by Menon (1931) and Aiyar, Menon and Menon (1936), I shall trace the history of the question of the occurrence of *Sagitta* on the Madras Coast and point out the difficulties in the acceptance of the claims of John.

All these results are based on collections made by the Department of Zoology of the University of Madras. In the year 1931 Mr. K. S. Menon published "A Preliminary Account of the Madras Plankton". In page 491 of Menon's paper occurs the statement: "While a few forms such as *Sagitta* and *Pleurobrachia* do not show much variation in numbers throughout the year, and do not have a definite maximal period, most of the organisms exhibit a regular seasonal abundance, and corresponding periods of maxima and minima". Further, under the heading "Chaetognatha" the following observation is met with: "*Sagitta bipunctata* (Q and G). Present practically all through the year. Scarce in May and July" (p. 505). Regarding the method of enumeration of numbers, Menon rightly remarks: "The bigger forms, such as *Sagitta*, were picked out and counted. The rest of the sample was spread out and examined on a ruled slide, and the numbers of the separate organisms counted. It must be borne in mind that the counts arrived at by such a process would in no