traveller to those parts, I am told, rests himself or his horses under that tree. Elsewhere in the north-west certain other vegetation is avoided by the knowing ones. Away from these plants, one may rest with little risk of attack, but beneath them he will generally soon find things altogether too lively for comfort. I have sought an explanation from travellers, and have this plausible one from a surveyor, who is also an observant naturalist: The Cameel Doorn is the most common tree in those sun-scorched, sandy parts, and offers almost the only available shade to horses and cattle. These animals therefore seek that tree, and there they are frequented by the tampan, which, it should be stated, attacks horses and cattle as freely as men. Certain other vegetation may shelter sheep and goats, but these are not found in all localities. My informant had never watched the small stock to notice if the tampan attacked it, having taken this for granted; but he had observed that it was only in small stock districts that it was necessary to avoid low bushes which afford shade as well as the higher Cameel Doorn. The inference is that there is a triangular association between shade, animals, and the tampan tick. That no tree or plant is necessary for the welfare of the tick is evidenced by the fact that in some parts of the country it takes up its abode in native huts. The thatched roof and basket-work wall of a hut gives them the necessary shelter. On the veldt, they usually appear from the sand. It is motion, not sound or scent, apparently, that attracts them, but this statement requires elaborate experimental confirmation.

In conclusion of these somewhat disjointed remarks, I trust that they, in conjunction with Dr. Behr's letter, will have influence in arousing more interest in the somewhat neglected subject of insect bites and their effects. There are many lines open for original research, and there is a distinctly economic phase to some. For instance, if it can be demonstrated that fowl ticks, and other poultry parasites that alternate periods of rest away from the host with their gormandizing, may and do communicate diseases, as seems likely, an important public service will have been rendered. That demonstration would have greater influence with the farmer in inducing him to wage effective war against the vermin than a score of bulletins describing the insects and suggesting remedies. In this Colony we are now striving to prove a connection between our worst sheep and goat disease and ticks; and if we succeed, as now seems probable, we anticipate an immense "boom" in tick destruction, and consequent improvement in stock of all kinds.