

## Letters

### Vitamins C and B<sub>12</sub>

*Tu thie Editor.* The spinal cord injury service at our hospital brings us in contact with a large number of patients at high risk for urinary tract infections. Thus, we read with great interest the recent article by Herbert and Jacob (230:241, 1974) regarding the in vitro destruction of vitamin B<sub>12</sub>, by ascorbic acid.

As a routine procedure, all of the spinal cord injury patients on our service receive doses of ascorbic acid of or more than 4 gm/day to enhance urinary acidity. We measured serum vitamin B<sub>12</sub> levels by the technique of radioisotope displacement in ten male patients, aged 17 to 69 years. Each of these patients had received ascorbic acid in this dose for more than 11 months. All had been on unrestricted diets and all took their medication in four divided doses each day. The vitamin B<sub>12</sub> levels were all well above the low normal value (300 pg/ml) and three were above the high normal (1,000 pg/ml). Those involved in the clinical use of ascorbic acid for urinary acidification may be interested in the results of our small survey.

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