CHAPTER V

CONCLUSION

Serum folate level was determined in 104 Thai blood-donors of both sexes, ages ranging from 18 to 44 years. A mean value of 9.32 ng./ml. obtained from these subjects was in the same order of magnitude as those results of the normal subjects reported previ usly. There was no significant difference in the mean value of serum folate levels in the male and female subjects in the present study.

Folic acid absorption was also studied in 12 normal subjects. A mean value of 49.96 % with a standard deviation of 7.0 % was found in these subjects.

A mean value ± one S.D. of the serum folate levels in 36 patients with P. falciparum malaria was found to be 5.53 ± 3.33 ng./ml. (range 1.0 - 14.5 ng./ml.). These values were found to be significantly different from the values of the normal subjects ($P < 0.05$).

Eight patients with P. falciparum malaria absorbed folic acid within the normal limit (41.41 % ; $P > 0.05$).

The mean serum folate levels and folic acid absorption in 5 and 13 patients with hookworm infection were found to be 6.5 ± 2.8 ng./ml. and 34.9 ± 18.4 % (range 8.0 - 60.5 %) respectively. Six out of 13 patients showed impaired

absorption of this vitamin.

Serum folate levels obtained from 3 patients with opisthorchiasis were 4.2 ; 3.67 and 6.1 ng./ml. A mean value ± one S.D. of folic acid absorption in 10 patients was found to be 32.4 ± 16.16 % (range 3.6 - 51.9 %) with 5 out of 10 showing an impaired absorption.