

✓ REPORT ON TRIAL TREATMENT OF LEPROSY WITH
DIPHThERIA ANATOXINE RAMON*

BY B. MOISER

*Medical Superintendent, Ngomahuru Leprosy Hospital
Fort Victoria, Southern Rhodesia*

The trial was begun on June 13, 1940, and continued until March 7, 1941. Fourteen men and five women, all natives, were chosen for the trial.

Dosage began with 1 cc., weekly, and was increased 1 cc. to a maximum of 4 cc. a week. Each increase was made, on the average, at the end of six weeks. All patients complained of "pains all over the body" and particularly in the joints, especially in the knees and ankles. The experiment was finally stopped at the request of the whole body of the patients, and because the majority did not show any improvement.

CASE 1. Male, aged about 35, L1-N1. Positive in ear, nose, and back; remained so. Several fresh lepromata appeared. Some ulcerated. Condition worse.

CASE 2. Male, aged about 17, L1-N2. Positive in ear, back, and face; remained so. Enlarged ulnar nerve. No improvement.

CASE 3. Male, aged about 14, L3-N1. Face, ears, back, and limbs very nodular and infiltrated. Several nodules broke down and ulcerated, and a few of these changed from 3+ to 1+, but the great majority remained strongly positive (3+ to 5+). No improvement, though the patient appeared to be deriving benefit in the early stages of treatment. He complained much of pain and of nasal ulceration.

CASE 4. Male, aged about 9, L1-N1. Nodules on nose and cheeks, 2+. No change.

CASE 5. Male, aged about 28, L1-N1, 2+. Lepromata of back and face grew steadily worse.

CASE 6. Male, aged about 25, L1-N1, 1+. Ears nodular. No change.

CASE 7. Male, aged about 30, L1-N1, 1+. Worse; nodules increased in extent and size. Complained much of joint pains.

CASE 8. Male, aged about 25, L1-N1, 1+. Several nodules ulcerated; vesicles appeared on both flanks; conjunctivitis B.E. Treatment was not continuous. Worse.

CASE 9. Male, aged about 20, 1+. Nodules of ear, palate, and scrotum. No change. Complained much of pain in knee joints.

CASE 10. Male, aged about 50, L1-N1, 1+. No change.

* Reprinted, with minor changes, from *Leprosy Review* 12 (1941) 54-56.

CASE 11. Male, aged about 20, tuberculoid N2, 1+. Several fresh macules appeared on back. Worse.

CASE 12. Male, aged about 25, L3-N2, 5+. A very advanced case with enormous lepromata on face, body, and limbs. At first several of these ulcerated and disappeared, becoming negative, and the patient appeared to be improving very much, but the general mass of lesions remained unaffected. No improvement in neural symptoms and signs.

CASE 13. Male, aged about 28, L2-N1, 2+. This case was at first tuberculoid, but later (1939) became lepromatous. Complained much of joint pains. No change.

CASE 14. Female, aged about 25, L2-N1, 1+. This woman appeared to improve for a time, but many lepromatous infiltrations and nodules remain on the back and upper limbs. No complaint of pain. No change.

CASE 15. Female, aged about 10, L1, 1+. Only a few nodules on ears. No change.

CASE 16. Female, aged about 20, L1, 1+. A few small lepromata only. All of these disappeared and the case became negative. Definite improvement, but the case is of a kind that here improves rapidly under moogrol.

CASE 17. Female, aged about 30, L2-N1, 3+. Massive lepromata on face and ears. Complained much of pain and had a reaction after a dose of 2 cc. in the 8th week, with cough and swelling of abdomen. Treatment was interrupted and finally abandoned after 20 weeks. No improvement.

CASE 18. Male, aged about 7, L1-N1, 1+. A few nodules on alae nasi only. Several new ones appeared. Worse.

CASE 19. Male, aged about 25, N2, tuberculoid. Under treatment for only one month, and continuing. No change so far.

Treatment has been discontinued in 18 of 19 cases. It is concluded that the mixed cases show no improvement. The trial will possibly be continued with a few cases of neural type, but at this hospital the treatment is very unpopular.*

* In an abstract of the annual report of this hospital for 1940, published in the same issue of *Leprosy Review* (see page 155 this issue) it is stated that these patients were receiving only the toxoid treatment and that the majority showed little evidence of improvement. The present report is of a later date. It should be noted that the reported results of the standard treatment in this institution have consistently been exceptionally good (see the abstract referred to). In an editorial comment elsewhere in the same issue of *Leprosy Review*, it is stated that the reports so far received have afforded no confirmation of the claims made for the toxoid treatment, that certain reports confirm the unfavorable results here recorded, and that for the present judgment should be suspended.—EDITOR