

As early as the first volume of THE JOURNAL there was inaugurated the practice of working up occasional "symposia by correspondence" on timely topics. By that term is meant groups of communications received in response to questions, they originating from a correspondent or otherwise, which are submitted to other correspondents for opinions. Before that sort of thing was stopped by the war thirteen symposia had appeared, as follows:

⁴ WAYSON, N. E. Contribution to a symposium, Infectiousness of neural cases, THE JOURNAL 3 (1935) 489-496.

- Hyperesthesia in lesions (I, 495-498).
- Staining of skin by iodized drug (II, 223-226).
- A minor accident (pinprick) (II, 230).
- Infectiousness of neural cases (II, 489-496).
- The abortive case (III, 357-360).
- Tuberculoid changes in the viscera (IV, 102-106).
- Classification of tuberculoid leprosy (IV, 369-373).
- Leprosy and sarcoid (V, 508-515).
- Nerve abscess in lepromatous cases (VII, 274-276).
- Surgical removal of solitary leprids (VII, 403-410).
- Vitamins in treatment (VII, 554-557).
- Medical student with leprosy (VIII, 93-99).
- Travel by persons with leprosy (VIII, 214-220).

The first extensive symposium to be worked up since 1940, on precisely the same subject as the third one, in 1935, appears in the present issue.

The preparation of a symposium embodying suitably representative points of view involves in total a considerable amount of effort on the part of contributors and Editor. Also, unavoidably, it involves selection of those invited to collaborate, because experience has shown that specific invitations are required to elicit statements of experience or opinion. In our first symposium it was stated: "This inquiry was submitted to certain clinicians dealing with leprosy. . . . If any other reader cares to contribute to the subject his communication will be published promptly after receipt." No such voluntary contribution was forthcoming, then or on later occasions. Sometimes a Letter to the Editor has included a request by its writer for comment, but such general invitations are equally unproductive.

On behalf of ourselves and our collaborators, it is desired to ascertain whether the readers of *THE JOURNAL* generally find such symposia interesting or helpful, and who among them would be willing to contribute to an occasional one. Heretofore we have had no definite guide, no direct way of determining reader interest. An indirect—and uncertain—indicator has been the response of those to whom questions have been sent for comment, and that has varied considerably. Some questions have evoked high proportions of responses, others decidedly less. There is always the question whether nonresponse is due to lack of interest in the particular question or lack of interest in symposia in general. If the latter is the case we should know it.

To that end there will be clipped to the cover of this issue a card calling attention to the present note, and asking the

recipient to fill in the questions, detach the postcard portion, and mail it to this office. It is hoped that the response will be general and prompt, and that advantage will be taken of the invitation to add "remarks" to the answers to the specific questions.

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