

RECEIVED ST. L.  
NOV 5  
—S. PAULI—

## CORRESPONDENCE

*This department is provided for the publication of informal communications which are of interest because they are informative or stimulating, and for the discussion of controversial matters.*

### THE HYDRAZINE DERIVATIVES OF ISONICOTINIC ACID

TO THE EDITOR:

You are probably aware that there have been sensational reports in certain influential American newspapers of results obtained in a New York hospital in the treatment of human tuberculosis with a new chemotherapeutic product. This product is an isonicotinic-acid-hydrazine compound.

This new drug has been developed from the thiosemicarbazone preparation called variously "Conteben," "TB-1," "Tibione," etc. On the occasion of the Second Medical Congress held in Nürnberg in October 1951, Professor Domagk spoke of experiences gained with it, and he has made a further report on it in *Aerztliche Praxis*, Vol. 2, No. 5, dated February 2, 1952. Experiments carried on in his laboratory, and investigations made in German clinics already extending over a half year, have shown results which are in agreement with the reports in the American press referred to. They have shown clearly that in tuberculosis the efficacy of the hydrazine derivative of isonicotinic acid is much superior to that of the thiosemicarbazone compounds. Very good results have been observed in all forms of pulmonary tuberculosis and in tuberculosis of the skin, especially lupus vulgaris.

According to the experiences of the past decade, progress made in the field of chemotherapy of tuberculosis is also of paramount importance for the treatment of leprosy. If further experience confirms that the hydrazine derivatives of isonicotinic acid are as much better than the sulfones and the thiosemicarbazones for tuberculosis as they seem to be, it may well be that they will also prove superior for leprosy. The Farbenfabriken Bayer, of Leverkusen, has indicated willingness to supply without charge a sufficient quantity of their product, which they call "Neoteben," for a trial treatment of leprosy cases.

Gluckstrasse 10  
Köln-Schlebusch III  
British Zone, Germany

DR. MED. ERNST KEIL