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BEGINNINGS WITH DDS IN FRENCH GUIANA

TO THE EDITOR:

You have asked how it was that I began to use the mother sulfone, DDS, in the treatment of leprosy during a period when the more complex derivatives were being used.

At the time of the Havana congress, early in 1948, I was on vacation in France. Before that I had had correspondence with M. and Mme. Trefouel, and with M. Rist, all of whom knew about DDS but did not know that sulfones were being used in leprosy. I had decided when in France to explore the possibilities of using the "active nucleus" of those drugs, as Rist had used it in tuberculosis, and so consulted him and the Trefouels. As a result, the drug house Théraplix provided the substance in forms suitable for oral and parenteral use, and work with them was started when I returned to Cayenne.

As requested, I have inquired of Théraplix whether the graded crystals of DDS which I have used in suspensions prepared by them can be purchased in powder form, to permit making suspensions as desired in coconut oil or other vehicles; and also how they prepare the crystals. They have replied that they are not in a position to supply the graded crystals except in prepared suspensions, nor can they give out information about how the crystals are prepared.

Finally, the designation "12/10" applied to needles means 1.2 millimeters. The full specification is 5/12/10, that is, 5 centimeters long and of the diameter indicated.

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