

CORRESPONDENCE

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PROGNOSIS AND THE LEPROMIN REACTION

CORRECTION OF ABSTRACT, AND ADDENDUM

TO THE EDITOR:

Being informed that the article by K. R. Chatterjee and me on the prognostic value of the lepromin test in contacts is soon to be reprinted in THE JOURNAL [see 24 (1956) 315-318], I would like to call attention to certain errors in the abstract of that article which appeared late last year [23 (1955) 481].

(1) In line 15 the word "negativity" should have been "positivity," the passage to read, ". . . the 156 negatives . . . contained the 93 in which *positivity* had been induced." (2) Two lines later, referring to the 17 out of 63 negatives that had developed leprosy, the percentage should be 27.0, not 29.6. (3) In the line after that, "lepromatous-neural ratio" should read "lepromatous-nonlepromatous ratio," for the symbol N as we used it there had the latter, broader sense. (4) Finally, beginning in the same line, it is stated parenthetically that "It cannot be told what happened to the 16 persistent negatives. . ." Evidently, when the abstract was prepared, our statement was overlooked that of those 16 persons "as many as 10 later developed the disease, and in 8 of these cases the disease was of the lepromatous type."

The concluding sentence of the abstract, another reviewer's comment, stated, "[It would appear, also, that the original negatives who were made positive by repeated lepromin testing were protected thereby.]" This concerns two points dealt with in the addendum that we supplied for publication with the reprinting of the article. Here it is desired simply to emphasize the fact that we cannot say to what extent the conversion of reactivity was due to the retesting, or how many of the individuals would have become positive spontaneously during the year in which the three tests were given.

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