

"ACUTE INFILTRATION" IN LEPROMATOUS LEPROSY

TO THE EDITOR:

In the article by Dr. I. Tajiri on "acute infiltration" in lepromatous leprosy [THE JOURNAL 23 (1955) 370-384] there is one feature which is confusing. At one point (p. 375) it is stated that bacilli are "difficult to find," whereas in another place (p. 382) it appears that "bacilli are numerous." It would be of interest to know which is the case.

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[The apparent contradiction in the statements referred to in this inquiry was overlooked in preparing the article for publication. The inquiry was referred to the author for comment.—EDITOR.]

The statements referred to by Dr. Davison occurred in two distinct parts of the article prepared at different times (the main text and the addendum), and in different contexts. The passage on p. 375 is quoted:

*Bacteriology.*—It is difficult to find lepra bacilli in smears from the acute infiltration lesions, although not as difficult as in the case of the eruption of tuberculoid type. The same is to be said of the search for bacilli in histological sections. Bacilli are much fewer than in lepromatous nodules, or the lesions of the acute lepromatous activation.

The phraseology of this translation of the original article, which was in the Japanese language, is unfortunate. The "difficulty" referred to is relative. The bacilli are more numerous than in most reactional tuberculoid lesions, which is the comparison here, but they are not abundant and, as compared with lepromatous lesions, they are *relatively* hard to find.

In the other passage, on p. 382, I was discussing the classification of these cases, their differentiation from those of the ordinary lepromatous and the ordinary tuberculoid types. There the passage would better have read, ". . . the bacilli are *relatively* numerous, contrary to the findings in *ordinary* tuberculoid cases."

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