

A HISTORICAL NOTE

TO THE EDITOR:

Serum lability tests to determine the forms of leprosy processes as early as possible are of increasing importance because of their prognostic significance. Reference should therefore be made to the Breslau Cod. III, Q. 5, written in the second half of the 15th century..

Here we read on page 349, column 2: "Item si vis probare si venus est leprosus aut non, minues ei de vena mediana et statim misce in tanta quantitate acetum cum illo (s(n)gwine et fac stare. Si fiat mixtum non est leprosus, si autem non, scilicet quod maneat in parte sua, leprosus est". Translation: For the diagnosis of leprosy, blood taken from the vena mediana is immediately mixed with vinegar in equal parts and allowed to stand. If the mixture remains stable, the person examined is leprosy-free; if the mixture separates, leprosy is present.

SUDHOFF, K. Arch. f. Gesch. d. Med. (Leipzig) 6 (1913) 159.

34 Richard Wagner-Str.
Köln-Schlebusch 5, Germany

—E. KEIL