

One of the criticisms of *THE JOURNAL*, voiced by certain of our readers who responded to the inquiry about its usefulness made last year, is that it is primarily a magazine for doctors and does not contain enough material about the social aspects of leprosy—and also, heard from other quarters, about physical therapy and occupational therapy—to make it of much value to the so-called paramedical workers. The truth of the matter is that we are not prone to avoid accepting articles on such topics, but that very few such manuscripts are ever offered us.

In this issue we reprint an article by Lois Ann Shearer and Jean Hoodwin entitled Hansen's Disease—A Modern Approach, which first appeared in *California's Health*, the periodical of the California State Department of Public Health. It is unique, so far as we are aware, in that it comprises a report of an inquiry (evidently of the yes-or-no variety) among people connected with the public health department of that state—where, it has recently been reported, around 15 new cases are seen each year and over 250 persons who have or have had the disease are allowed to live without isolation. That, for example, a full one-quarter of the professional staff answered either “yes” or “don't know” to the question whether or not *all* persons with leprosy should be isolated, makes one wonder what the response would be to a similar inquiry among the professional personnel of the health services of states where leprosy is virtually never seen and therefore does not especially come to their attention.

Similar inquiries in other countries might give interesting results.

—H. W. W.