

## CORRESPONDENCE

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### BERGEL'S PROOXIDANT DIET FOR MICE

TO THE EDITOR:

The following note has recently been sent, for information, to members of the Carville (1960), Baltimore (1961) and Buenos Aires (1961) meetings at which reports were read on the transmission of *M. leprae* to animals:

Gentlemen: Regarding our present work on inoculation of *M. leprae*, a simple method to obtain an extraordinarily great growth of *M. leprae* is indicated as follows:

(1) White mice, 21 days old, are given the following prooxidant diet:

Casein	23.8 gm.
Brewer's yeast, dry powder	8.9 gm.
Mineral salt mixture (H.M.W.)	3.0 gm.
Starch	48.9 gm.
Linseed oil <sup>a</sup>	20.0 gm.

<sup>a</sup>(To be added daily to the rest of the formula.)

(2) A 0.1 per cent solution of silver nitrate in distilled water is also supplied the animals as drinking water. Animals are maintained throughout the experiment on these nutritional conditions.

(3) Thirty days later the mice are infected, in both testes, with 0.05 cc. of a suspension of *M. leprae* derived from a human source, or from the testis of a mouse previously infected and maintained on the above mentioned diet.

(4) Inoculated testes are found about six months after infection with an extraordinary great number of bacilli and globi.

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