

Leprosy in the International Classification of Diseases

TO THE EDITOR:

During a study of the causes of death of patients in a leprosarium in New Guinea, my attention was drawn to the classification of leprosy adopted in the International Classification of Diseases, Injuries and Causes of Death in the section Tabular List of Inclusions and Four-digit Subcategories (International Classification of Diseases, Vol. 1, Seventh Revision 1957, Rubric 060, page 61).

It is apparent that the well-known clinical and pathologic entity "tuberculoid" leprosy is not mentioned. However, if Vol. 2 of the International Classification, the Alphabetical Index, is consulted (see Leprosy, pages 263 and 264 of Vol. 2) tuberculoid leprosy is given the same rubric as lepromatous leprosy, i.e., 060.0—which seems to me to be extraordinary.

There will always be discussion concerning the classification of leprosy and most leprologists engaged in research or control work would doubtless use one of the classifications more suited to their particular

purposes, but if the recommendations of WHO are to be followed, that the International Classification be used for the reporting of mortality and morbidity, some measure of international agreement must be reached and I foresee no difficulty in distinguishing tuberculoid from lepromatous leprosy.

This matter may have already been brought to the attention of your readers, and action may have been taken already to bring this matter up at the Eighth Revision Conference to be held in 1966. If so this letter is somewhat redundant. I shall, nevertheless, contact the Australian Delegate to the Eighth Revision Conference concerning the classification of leprosy to be adopted.

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