

CLOSING REMARKS

Dr. Shepard. In closing the Leprosy Research Conference we of the Leprosy Panel want to thank all of the participants for making this a successful meeting. We are deeply indebted to speakers from outside of the field of leprosy for having contributed so much time and effort out of their already busy schedules. We owe a special debt to our foreign participants for having traveled so far; international travel is rapid now, but it requires the ability to withstand close confinement and to go without adequate rest.

Our hosts for the meeting, the staff of U.S. Public Health Service Hospital in San Francisco, have provided us with admirable facilities for the meeting. The Office of International Research of the National Institutes of Health has done its usual fine job in setting up the meeting and arranging travel.

In planning the conference it was apparent to us that the relationship between sulfones and *M. leprae* had now become a rapidly developing field that needed summary and discussion. The sulfone symposium was therefore arranged and we hope to publish the *Proceedings* as a supplement to the INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF LEPROSY. Dr. Waldemar F. Kirchheimer of the U.S. Public Health Service Hospital at Carville has kindly offered to reconstruct the discussion from the recording tapes that have been taken during the meeting.

In the course of the meeting we were pleased to discover that the field of immunology of leprosy has now begun to develop in a promising way. The developments in immunology and chemotherapy lend an aura of optimism to the field of leprosy research, a field where significant advancements have sometimes come at discouragingly slow rates.