

Elongation of *M. lepraemurium*

TO THE EDITOR:

I read with interest the article entitled "Elongation *in vitro* of *Mycobacterium lepraemurium* as a distinction from *Mycobacterium leprae*," which appeared in the INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF LEPROSY 36 (1968) 83-86.

In this letter I would like to point out first that I did not supply any strain, not to speak of five strains, to the authors of this paper (see page 83), for which they have bestowed undue credit. They have further credited me with having isolated those strains from livers of mice with systemic infection after inoculation of human leprosy tissue. May I here once more draw the attention of the authors to my article entitled "Experimental transmission of human leprosy infection to a selected laboratory-bred hybrid black mouse" (THE JOURNAL 26 (1958) 195-204). There it was stated clearly that my material for inoculation consisted of tissue-free bacteria and *not* leprosy tissue.

I hope you will be good enough to publish this letter in the columns of your *Correspondence Section* and thus help leprosy

workers all over the globe to realize the true situation.

—K. R. CHATTERJEE

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TO THE EDITOR:

To clarify the position—the five strains (actually three strains and two further sub-strains from one of them) of mycobacteria included in our series, the origin of which Dr. K. R. Chatterjee questions, were provided by him for *in vitro* studies in 1962-63 when he was working in these laboratories. He had isolated them from livers of mice with systemic infection after inoculation of material whose source was human leprosy tissue. Perhaps we should have mentioned that the human leprosy bacilli had been virtually freed of tissue before the inoculation.

—P. D'ARCY HART

AND

—R. J. W. REES

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