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 leprous tissue. May I 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 leprous 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

R. K. Mission Boys Home
P. O. Bahara
District 24 Pasur
West Bengal, India
23 August 1968

To the Editors:

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 Haer

and

- R. W. Rees

National Institute for Medical Research
Mill Hill
London, N.W., England
4 September 1968

Correction

The Editor notes with regret two omissions in the letter from D. S. Ridley and M. J. Ridley published in THE JOURNAL 36 (1968) 339-340. The legend for Figure 1, to which reference is made on page 339, was not inserted. The legend is "Isolated clubs (C), some of them showing rudimentary tails, and generating bacilli with clubs, from a patient undergoing relapse." The reference given as 1 in line 9 on page 340 should have been 5. The correct reference is 5 Chatterjee, B. R. Growth habits of *Mycobacterium leprae*. The implications. *Internat. J. Leprosy* 33 (1965) 551-555.