

## CORRESPONDENCE

*This department is provided for the publication of informal communications which are of interest, whether because they are informative or are suggestive and stimulating; to serve as an open forum for discussions of matters of interest; and for questions and answers by members of the editorial staff and others.*

### BACILLI IN TUBERCULOID LESIONS

To the EDITOR:

With reference to the article by Dr. Wade on tuberculoid leprosy in South Africa which appeared in the second number of the current (1934) volume of the JOURNAL, it may be of interest that a number of specimens of that condition which I have received from Dr. le Roux, of the West Fort Institution, Pretoria, have proved quite similar to those described by Wade but that I have been able to find bacilli in all of them. To demonstrate them the sections must be very thin; great care must be exercised with regard to decolorization (I always use Gabbet's fluid for simultaneous decolorization and counter-staining); and last but not least great patience must be exercised in the search for the bacilli as they may be extremely few.

*Bergen, Norway.*

H. P. LIE

[*Comment.*—That Dr. Lie has been able to demonstrate leprosy bacilli, however few, in all of a number of specimens of tuberculoid lesion is of considerable importance to those who are interesting themselves in this variety of the leprosy lesion. To demonstrate these bacilli satisfactorily in tissue sections is not always an easy matter, even when abundant; and many technicians may fail completely to find them when they are as few as they must be in tuberculoid lesions that are in the ordinary, quiescent stage (i.e., not in the state of lepra reaction). It is hoped that a detailed description of the technic used by Dr. Lie will be available in the near future for the Brief Reports section of the JOURNAL.—EDITOR.]