

## CORRESPONDENCE

*This department is for the publication of informal communications that are of interest because they are informative and stimulating, and for the discussion of controversial matters.*

### Response to Sr. Graver [IJL 42 (1974) 72]

TO THE EDITOR:

I would like to point out to Sr. Graver the following observations.

It is understood that trials with new drugs administered to patients must be under maximum precautions and it has always to be borne in mind that the drug may represent a progress in the treatment of the patient.

Concerning the thalidomide trials, as it has been shown, a large number of hospitals and dispensaries have used thalidomide which has proven very effective in suppressing leprosy reaction. It is understood that this drug should not be used in women of

childbearing age, or if it has to be used, this must be done with the consent of the patient under hospital conditions and the patient has to be aware that she should not become pregnant during the treatment.

These criteria have been strictly observed in all our clinical trials and also in the trials of other leprosy centers.

The suppressive results in leprosy reaction in 4,479 out of 4,522 patients with lepromatous leprosy speak for themselves.

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