

"Too Scientific?"

We have recently heard the remark from some quarters that the INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF LEPROSY is "too scientific." Coupled with this has been expressed a desire for more papers on "statistics of leprosy" (presumably epidemiology), on rehabilitation and on social aspects of the disease. We gather from this that some assume that this JOURNAL is too technical and not of enough general interest.

With an interest in testing this claim, we set a 21-year-old university graduate, having no specific personal working experience with leprosy but having an interest in the disease to the point of having visited many leprosaria in the Far East, the task of going through the past five volumes of this JOURNAL and listing the papers she thought of interest and not too technical for her to comprehend. Her list of 86 publications (includ-

ing editorials) included 14 on history, 20 on control and epidemiology, 5 on rehabilitation, 18 on therapy, 3 on surgery, 15 clinical, 5 on experimental leprosy, and 6 on pathology. This, of course, does not include the subject matter in News and Notes or the Current Literature sections.

We submit that on this basis we must have done quite well and been reasonably well balanced if at the same time we have achieved the reputation of being "too scientific."

Remarkably, Dr. Wade in his report as editor to the 1938 Fourth International Leprosy Congress (IJL 6 [1938] 529-542), was moved to write: "No article has been rejected because it was too 'scientific,' provided it was pertinent to leprosy."

—OLAF K. SKINSNES