phages. Even though the lepromatous human and lepromatoid armadillo macrophages seem to be strikingly deficient in their digression is to note M. leprae, they do have lysosomes. In fortuitous electron micrographs almost selective crossation can be seen on the surfaces of bacilli contained in phagolysosomes. It is probable that many of the humoral antibody stimulating antigens, and therefore Arthus reaction eliciting, of M. leprae are surface antigens and the question arises as to what modifications in these may be caused by the bacillary sojourn in macrophages.

In vitro cultivated bacilli, derived from a totally different nutritional and enzymic environment as compared to tissue isolated bacilli, as well as being devoid of the tissue products accompanying the latter, may well be expected to provide skin test responses apparently differing from expectations derived primarily from use of the classical Hayashi/Mitsuda type lepromin. There is the probability of obtaining an Arthus type reaction, a Fernandez reaction (early) and the Mitsuda reaction. Unless the problem is studied analytically, differentially and selectively it may be too readily said that the cultures are not M. leprae because their saline suspension may produce the gamut of reactions since even tuberculoid patients are not devoid of anti-M. leprae antibodies. Rather than quick judgements either way, the problem is complex enough to call for careful study and judicious judgement.

—Ola K. Skinsnes

Leprosy and Dar-Kosis

In early Greek Pythagorean philosophy and astronomy it was postulated that on the side of the sun opposite the earth there exists a planet termed "counter-earth" (Antichthon). Being on the opposite side of the sun it is ever invisible to men on earth.

Recently a series, comprising 11 volumes, of science fiction novels have been issued on this concept of "counter-earth"; in them termed "Gor." The conditions and concepts of Gor are in many ways antithetical to those on earth; indeed, they might by some be regarded as antithetical to the concepts of women's lib. One might wonder at their having been permitted publication on earth were it not that, fortunately, women's lib has not yet achieved for women on earth the position occupied by males on Gor.

Be that as it may, a point of this brief editorial digression is to note that on Gor there exists a disease known as Dar-Kosis or the Holy Disease to which there are scattered references in volumes 1 and 5. In the reading of these there are strong reflections of medieval leprosy:

Dar-Kosis, or the Holy Disease, or Sacred Affliction, is a virulent, wasting disease of Gor. Those afflicted with it, commonly spoken of simply as the Afflicted Ones, may not enter into normal society. They wander the countryside in shroudlke yellow rags, beating a wooden clapping device to warn men from their path; some of them volunteer to be placed in Dar-Kosis pits, several of which lay within the vicinity of Ar, where they are fed and given drink, and are, of course, isolated; the disease is extremely contagious. Those who contract the disease are regarded by law as dead.1

It seems that a physician on Gor, named Flaminius, took it as his life work to develop "an immunization against Dar-Kosis." This project, for political reasons not unlike those existing in the world of leprosy, was frustrated. In telling his tale, however, Flaminius revealed that similar research had been pursued long before his time and, though this had been specifically unsuccessful for Dar-

1 It is regretted that this concept from "space" did not come to attention early enough to be included in the editorial "Compilation of Leprosy Equivalent Designations" (I.L. I: 2) [1974] 204-208.

Kosis, it had resulted in the development of the “Stabilization Serums.” These sera, given in four doses on four consecutive days (in Gor), render the recipients virtually immune to the processes of aging and are available free to all Gorean.

We have long contended that research in leprosy is of significance in relation to biological science and other disease but had not anticipated this possibility. Perhaps some bold soul could seek appropriate and elegant funding from a granting body now that science fiction is so widely mooted as having been remarkably prophetic.

The designation Day-Kosis also presents itself for possible consideration as a term to resolve the current conflict regarding the earthly designation for this ancient affliction. But then we would have to rewrite literature and we might be reviled for alleged association with Gorean philosophy. The path of the leprosy worker is alak, fraught with problems.

Unfortunately, with respect to these problems we are "on our own." It seems that the Priest-Kings of Gor have the technical ability to bend communication waves or beams, unnoticeably, in such a manner as to avoid the detection of Gor. Should we send a satellite to explore the opposite side of the sun, it is said that they are able to move Gor into the orbit of another sun—perhaps they have already done so.

Alas, it appears that we earthlings are alone with our problem. Possibly some direction to it may result from a synthesis of the disparate concepts put forth in the four recent editorials on this subject which have appeared in these pages. Alternatively we could, of course, devote ourselves to reading science fiction!

—Olaf K. Skinsnes

Manuscripts and This Journal

Reading past editorial pages of this Journal as well as such records as are available indicates that prior editorial experience with the flow of manuscripts to this Journal has essentially followed our experience of the past nine years. This is that the flow tends to rise and fall in unpredictable waves.

During some of the past nine years we inadvertently achieved an excess backlog. This arose primarily from two factors. One was the desire to accommodate as many authors as possible, particularly ILA members. The second reason was inadvertent and beyond our control as best exemplified by the year 1973. That year the Centennial Festschrift, approved by the Board of Directors, was planned as a supplement to one of the regular issues. When this material was well in hand the financial straits of the Journal were such that it was not possible to issue a supplement. Indeed, it became necessary to utilize two regular issues (Nos. 2 & 3) for that effort. That same year the ILA Xth International Leprosy Congress also mandated that we publish its proceedings but made no financial arrangements for the cost of the effort. It became necessary to utilize issue No. 4, also of 1973, for this purpose. Thus in 1973, three of our regular issues became unavailable for the regular flow of manuscripts, to the understandable disgruntlement of some authors whose work was delayed in printing.

When the printing of the Journal was moved to Hawaii in 1974, considerable work was undertaken in collaboration with the printers to attempt to improve the printed quality and arrangement of the Journal. Without changing its general style, it became possible to accommodate approximately ten manuscripts per issue instead of the previous eight to nine, and still remain within our general quota of about 500 pages per volume. Thus the manuscript backlog has recently been markedly reduced at a time coincident with a periodic manuscript accession.