

Reply to Dr. Crawford's Letter to the Editor

TO THE EDITOR:

I am grateful for the opportunity to reply to Dr. Crawford's letter on this interesting subject and hasten to apologize to him for overlooking his previous observations on the presence of inflammatory cell infiltrates in biopsies from patients with edema of the extremities. His belief that a sensory polyneuritis may occur in these patients in the absence of bacilli, with serious consequences, confirms my suspicion that the subject of edematous swelling of the extremities in patients with borderline reac-

tions has never been fully investigated and explained. If there is indeed an inflammatory infiltrate of cells in these edematous areas, *unrelated* to the obvious skin lesions of borderline leprosy, then the subject is surely worth further investigation since it may reveal something new concerning the pathogenesis of leprosy, at least in this part of the spectrum.

—A. Colin McDougall, M.D., F.R.C.P.

*The Slade Hospital
Headington
Oxford OX3 7JH England*