

Reply to Dr. Browne's Letter to the Editor

TO THE EDITOR:

It was interesting to read Dr. Browne's letter. He obviously firmly believes that he knows what indeterminate leprosy is.

I have recently received a letter from an old colleague of his (Dr. D. J. Harman) who says, "I certainly agree with you that the classification of indeterminate leprosy should be abolished."

The point I was trying to make in my letter was that everyone seems to be certain that they know about indeterminate leprosy, but when a "consultant dermatologist practicing in a town where the incidence is not high" (that's me!) reads what was written in India and the Philippines as well as from Africa, it is clear that different authors use the diagnosis in different ways.

I must emphasize that if all of Dr. Browne's cases cleared without treatment, while most of Dr. Fajardo's patients need

three years' treatment to be moderately improved, they are not talking about the same thing.

Perhaps Dr. Browne could use his analytical faculties to comment on the other papers I mentioned in my letter. Does he believe that these were all cases of indeterminate leprosy like his? It would also be interesting if the other authors referred to would comment on Dr. Browne's cases.

Dr. Browne agrees with my "excellent advice"—"When in doubt, temporize." Unfortunately, I have more doubts than he does.

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