CORRESPONDENCE

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

HISTOLOGICALLY SIMPLE MACULES

To the EDITOR:

It is my impression that, so far, only workers from the Philippines have reported definite leprotic macules which on histological examination show only round cell infiltration without tuberculoid foci or with only a few "suspicious" foci. Although many such macules are undoubtedly retrogressed lesions, previously tuberculoid, there are others which seem to be young and progressing. Almost all of the latter variety that I have seen were in young children, and could be considered as belonging to Muir's juvenile type. On the other hand, there are also other macules in children which clinically belong to the juvenile type but which on biopsy exhibit a typical tuberculoid histological structure.

With reference to patients presenting such simple macules characterized only by round cell infiltration, I would like to ask the following questions: (1) Are many such cases seen in other countries where leprosy is endemic? (2) Should such cases be considered as having tuberculoid lesions? (3) Do such cases belong to the neural or the cutaneous type, or should the macules be considered merely as precursors of either type and the cases therefore too early to be classified under either?

Cebu Skin Dispensary
Cebu, Cebu

J. N. RODRIGUEZ