

PENRYHN ISLAND, A CORRECTION

To the EDITOR:

In the fourth issue last year (p. 577) there appeared a news item entitled "A hospital in the Cook Islands," which stated that a hospital for lepers had been established on Penryhn Island of the Cook group. That statement is based on a misapprehension, the "hospital" being merely a clearing center to which patients were sent while awaiting transport to Makogai. It was run by a young Cook Island practitioner trained in the Central Medical School at Suva, who had taken a special course here at Makogai for the purpose. Some of the patients had been waiting for some months and he was able to initiate their treatment, so that they arrived here in much better condition than they would have been otherwise. Dr. Ellison himself accompanied the 43 patients so collected on Penrhyn when they were brought here in October, and said, because of newspaper reports on the subject, that nothing had been farther from his thoughts than to establish a permanent hospital there.

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