

A CASE APPARENTLY CURED SURGICALLY

TO THE EDITOR:

In the *Missouri Medical Journal* for April, 1940, there appeared an article entitled "Leprosy" by George B. Tuttle, who served at Molokai for 11 years. It is a general description of the disease, apparently presented to a group of medical men not familiar with it, but reference is made to one case which is extremely interesting

to me. It is the girl in whom the diagnosis of leprosy was made by McCoy and Goodhue, about 1913, when she was 19 months of age. The only lesion found was removed surgically and the case was reported in the *Public Health Bulletin*, in 1916. On two occasions in 1924 I reexamined the patient with Goodhue, and failed to find any evidence of active leprosy. We reported it in the periodical mentioned [39 (1924) 2680-2683], suggesting that possibly it was a case of arrest of the disease by surgical intervention. Tuttle now states that the patient, who is now 25 years of age and whom he has known for 11 years (to 1939), has never shown any evidence of active leprosy, nor is there reason to suspect its existence.

After being declared leprous at the age stated, she lived in the Molokai settlement with her parents, both relatively noninfectious cases of the nerve type. Since I examined her, however, she has grown up and married a leper who is of the exceedingly infectious lepromatous type. I do not know whether or not such a history is of any value from a scientific point of view, but it is most interesting to one who has seen the case personally.

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