

CORRESPONDENCE

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LIMITATIONS OF TOXOID TREATMENT

TO THE EDITOR:

With regard to my article on the limitations of the diphtheria toxoid treatment of leprosy, which I submit for publication, I wish to point out that it is not presented as a scientific study of this matter. I have never before published any article on the treatment of leprosy, for I do not feel that I am qualified to do that. Nevertheless, I am intimately concerned with the treatment work in this institution and the observations which are recorded are, I believe, correct. The conclusions represented are based on them. The article was written because I regard it as important to offset in some way the exaggerated idea of the value of this treatment which I have ample reason to know has been gained by many people from previous publications on the subject.

There may be some real mistakes in certain features of these reports, including mine. When Doctor Collier sent to Doctor Wade a number of photographs showing the original and improved conditions of some of the patients, the latter wrote that they were all definitely or probably of tuberculoid nature, two of them of the baffling "borderline" class of which he has written lately. They, and others like them, have certainly been recorded in this institution as lepromatous. If, however, they are essentially of tuberculoid nature, then the statement in my article that we have had under treatment only two major cases with numerous bacilli is incorrect. At least we have had only two such recognized cases, showing the characteristic major tuberculoid lesions—those with sharply defined, raised, erythematous marginal zones and receded, more or less normal-appearing central areas.

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