

Correspondence.

SIR,

With reference to the letter from Dr. Percy M. C. Peacock, Superintendent, St. John's Leper Home, Mandalay appearing in LEPROSY NOTES, for October, 1929, I have the honour to inform you that the facts are as follows :—

A Sister of the Franciscan Order who was working in a Dispensary for the Poor in Coimbatore, South India, developed, about three or four years ago, symptoms suspicious of leprosy. She was brought to Ceylon and examined by the Medical Superintendent of the Chief Leper Asylum in this Island, who diagnosed the case as leprosy. She was admitted to the Leper Asylum at Mantivu, and has been there ever since. This Sister has never worked in a Leper Asylum in India, Ceylon or Burma.

It may interest you to know that Sisters of the Franciscan Order have been working in the two Leper Asylums of this Island for 15 years, and that we also are in the proud position of being able to state that there has not been yet a case of leprosy contracted amongst them.

I am, Sir, Your obedient servant,

(Signed) J. F. E. BRIDGER.

Director of Medical and Sanitary Services.

Colombo.

November 11th, 1929.

“ A CURE FOR LEPROSY.”—A REPUDIATION.

SIR,

In August last, the proofs of an absurd, grossly inaccurate, and sensational article on “ a cure for leprosy,” alleged to have been written by me, and in which my wife’s name was gratuitously and incorrectly dragged in, was sent to me for correction by an old and reputable British popular paper. On my informing the Editor that I had never written any such article, which was grotesquely incorrect in nearly every line, he courteously withdrew it and told me that it had been purchased in good faith from some American Press agency, which is certainly not lacking in enterprise. Soon after I had to repudiate the same article on its appearance in a leading paper in India, which had also accepted it in good faith. I have since received letters from other widely separated countries which appear to relate to the same article, which in one case even deceived a medical man in a responsible position, who ought to have known better than to think me capable of writing such a farrago of nonsense. I am, therefore, taking this early opportunity of once more repudiating it, although I fear it will be impossible to catch up such a tissue of false statements, once it has gained a long start.

Let me state clearly once again that I have never claimed to have discovered an infallible cure for leprosy, but in view of the recent award to me for my researches on the treatment of leprosy by the Edinburgh University of the Cameron Prize in Therapeutics, which has an international standing and distribution, I believe I may justly be considered to have gained for the British Empire a share in the credit for the establishment of a greatly improved treatment of leprosy, which at least enables a large proportion of early cases to be “ cured ” in the clinical sense of the term, and thus to have forged a weapon which will allow leprosy to be reduced greatly in the British Empire and elsewhere within the next few decades, which is the essential aim of our Association.

Yours faithfully,

LEONARD ROGERS.

London, N.W.6.

December 20th, 1929.