

Correspondence.

PURULIA LEPER COLONY,
9th July, 1934.

To *The Editor*, "*Leprosy Review*," London.

DEAR SIR,

In reply to the questions asked by Dr. T. B. Welch, from Wete, Pemba, in the *LEPROSY REVIEW* for January, 1934, I should like to state that I have carefully gone through the records of my cases whose serum proteins and serum formalin reactions were studied by me in 1930-1931; and I find from a perusal of the records that there is no connection between a strongly positive Kahn and a strongly positive Aldehyde reaction. Cases who have shown a three plus or even a four plus Kahn, have shown a negative Aldehyde reaction, and conversely, cases with a negative or weak Kahn, say one plus (even after repeated testing), have shown a positive reaction with the Aldehyde, of varying degrees. There seems to be no definite relationship between a strongly positive Kahn and a strongly positive Aldehyde reaction.

In this connection, I think it is necessary to mention that in carrying out the Formaldehyde test, it is necessary to have a unit quantity of serum, a unit quantity of formalin of a particular strength, and definite criteria of positivity. The well-known technique of Napier referred to in my article should be followed, as otherwise fallacious results might be obtained. Every serum can be coagulated with sufficiently strong formalin, and if kept for a sufficiently long time. Therefore, to avoid such false positives, it is necessary to follow a well-known technique. With such a technique I could not detect any strongly positive Aldehyde reaction in any uncomplicated case of leprosy.

I remain, Dear Sir,

Yours faithfully,

G. R. RAO.