

# Correspondence.

PRETORIA LEPROSY INSTITUTION,

*The Editor, "Leprosy Review,"*

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131 Baker Street, London, W.1.

I have read with great interest the article on "The Curability of Leprosy," by Dr. F. G. Rose, M.D., who discusses a matter of considerable importance which has always received our close attention in South Africa.

I must congratulate Dr. Rose on the very efficient way in which his cases are followed up and on account of this his figures are particularly valuable and merit very careful consideration.

Dr. Lowe's statement that recrudescence most frequently occurs within the first two years after arrest finds ample proof in his statistics and can probably be endorsed by most leprologists. On the other hand his assumption that recurrence of symptoms is largely due to insufficient treatment will probably meet with less support.

While duration and regularity of treatment have a definite influence on its success, I feel it would be illogical to omit consideration of such important factors as: stage of disease, nutrition, puberty, childbirth, septic conditions and intercurrent diseases.

It must also be borne in mind that the only means at our disposal for estimating arrest are:—

- (a) A bacteriological examination of material obtained superficially from cases in whom the infection is frequently deep seated.
- (b) Clinical observation.

The possibility of error in (a) is obvious, and in (b) where we are entirely dependent upon the human element it is well known.

Is it not probable that these inaccurate means of assessing "arrest" are responsible for many relapses?

Yours faithfully, J. J. DU PRE LE ROUX.