

# Correspondence

MEDICAL SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE,  
SUNGEI BULOH SETTLEMENTS,  
SUNGEI BULOH, F.M.S.  
9th February, 1935.

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

DEAR Dr. COCHRANE,

I find from a large number of both private and public communications that my article "A Preliminary Report on the Action of Certain Dyes in Leprosy," has given rise to considerable misconceptions. This article does not describe a cure for leprosy; it does not suggest a treatment for leprosy. It does not claim that Trypan Blue "dissolves the fatty envelope of the bacillus"; it does not claim that any of these dyes are bacteriocidal *in vivo*. It gives no grounds for suggesting that "results were due to pyrogenic action of the injections." It expressly points out that lepra reaction was excluded.

I have had a number of letters from different institutions asking me for "details of the New Treatment." I am afraid I have to some extent similarly misled a contributor in your last issue—Dr. Rao, who writes a very careful and interesting article on the therapeutic efficacy of certain dyes in leprosy.

To prevent further false hopes I must point out that the article in question is a study of the effects of rapid and formidable reticulo-endothelial blockage by a large number of different dyes. It forms part of a series of consequent studies on chemo-therapy which are still in progress. It should not be taken as justification for a hope that six fairly advanced cases would improve on small doses of Trypan Blue.

I don't want Dr. Rao to think I am being derogatory about his very useful article. From my own experience I think that it is necessary to reiterate that these dyes are not therapeutic and that at present their interest is scientific only.

I am, yours sincerely,

GORDON A. RYRIE.