

REPORTS

Dr. M. J. Oberdoerffer sends a preliminary report on *Jantol*, manufactured by Messrs. Bayer-Leverkusen. He tried out this drug on 16 patients. His conclusions were that *Jantol* is a difficult drug to use. It can only be injected in small doses, as otherwise it produces severe local and general reaction. The high iodine content (2.5%) is a dangerous attribute. The special effects of chaulmoogra preparations depend on the possibility of giving large doses, which are not possible with *Jantol*. He considers that this drug can only be used in small doses and in carefully selected cases. What its final effect will be he cannot judge yet, as he has only used it for six weeks.

Biederwolf Leper Colony, Soonchun, Korea.

Dr. Wilson writes in his report:—"One real problem is the cured leper. If your neighbour had been under treatment in a leper colony and returned saying he was cured, would you care to have him to stay in your home? Or would there be for him any opportunity of marriage? Doubtless, no! One young man was discharged from our colony cured. After a few months he came back in great distress, with this story: 'My own friends would not allow me to drink from our well nor walk in the village path. My family said that my presence would prevent my sister and brother from getting married. I am not allowed to beg; my situation is hopeless. So I have come back to you.'

"We have a solution for such a problem too. It is to



The first group of married cases with their adopted children.

locate cured cases on small rice plots, in families where possible, so that they may be self-supporting and gradually may give assurance to the public that the cure has been permanent and that the former leper is a safe citizen of his community. Then he may go to his village or elsewhere and be an exponent of the eradication of leprosy from Korea.

"A marriage experiment has proved a most happy one. A year ago we selected eleven men with good records of response to treatment and helpfulness in the community life, and arranged for the selection of a wife for each, by the oriental plan, from among women of like progress. Each pair selected a leper child, boy or girl, to adopt and make their home complete. The men, with their consent, were first sterilized. Then there was a union marriage ceremony, and the adopted children acted as attendants at the wedding.

"Each pair was given material with which to build a home in the colony, land for a garden, and a rice field.

Together each pair and their son, or daughter, built the home, planted the vegetables, the flowers and the rice; and they are now carrying on their happy family life. We can go further with this when our friends supply us with additional land. Remarkable progress has been made by the lepers in making the very poor barren soil into fine farm land. The entire colony has gotten the spirit of farming as they have the spirit of treatment. Our friends believe in treatment because they see results. They believe in farming because they see results too; and the full larder means a good table. At our annual fair are displayed a great variety of farm produce and other things made in the colony; and this is a great stimulus to all. At the last fair were exhibited farm products, rabbits, pigs, needle-work, trunks, tinnerns ware, peg legs, and even a house cat, which was brought in a cage to show the best cat in the place. One rule is that every patient must save seed for next year, and that everyone must plant annually 100 trees. The place has taken on real beauty and has become a haven of rest for an outcast people."

Annual Report for 1936 of Leprosy Research Department, School of Tropical Medicine, Calcutta.

As many as 1762 new patients appeared for diagnosis during the year, of which 1568 were definitely diagnosed as leprosy. Under *Bacteriology* the following abstract is of special interest :—

" Attempts have been made to prove or disprove the claims of successful culture which have recently been made by various workers. Exhaustive experiments have been carried out in the cultivation of lepra bacilli specially, by the methods of McKinley, Soule and Verder. About 1,000 tubes of different media were inoculated in 24 experiments. About one-half of these were put under the gaseous tension recommended by Soule and McKinley and the other half were incubated under ordinary atmospheric conditions. These were periodically examined over a period of several months. Until October no definite evidence of multiplication of the bacillus was obtained. In October, however, the tubes seeded in August were examined and it was found that of the 70 tubes kept in a gaseous environment of 40 per cent. oxygen and 10 per cent. carbon dioxide according to the method of Soule and McKinley, 35 showed slight macroscopic and considerable microscopic evidence of colony formation, many masses of acid-fast bacilli being found in smears. Of the other 70 tubes kept under ordinary atmospheric conditions, 14 showed similar but less marked evidence of growth. Subculture is being attempted. The details of the experiments with the gaseous tension method are at present as follows :—

Experiments under 10 per cent. CO₂ and 40 per cent O₂ gaseous atmosphere.

Number of experiments	...	...	...	...	8
Number of tubes inoculated	...	...	...	...	313
Number of tubes examined so far	...	...	...	...	159

Results of the 159 tubes examined.

Contaminated	...	...	...	...	...	23
No. A.F. bacilli	...	...	...	...	...	11
Smears showed scanty to fair amount of A.F. bacilli	...	...	...	...	...	89
Large number of A.F. bacilli (Suggestive of multiplication)	...	...	...	...	...	36

(All from two experiments.)

Multiplication of bacilli has not been proved, nor has the organism found been shown to be the leprosy organism.

In the minced-chick-tissue medium persistence of bacilli for a long time and carrying over of bacilli from one tube to another is observed, but no definite multiplication has been obtained. It is believed that the findings of Salle, who reported that in tissue cultures and in minced-chick-tissue media the bacilli multiply in alternating acid-fast and non-acid-fast forms at the various stages of sub-culture, has been disproved. The bacilli remain acid-fast, but no non-acid-fast forms have been seen except for the contaminants. These contaminating organisms, when put on to fresh media, do not become acid-fast.