

MODES OF TRANSMISSION OF LEPROSY

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A good deal of evidence accumulated in all parts of the world supports the view that leprosy is a house disease. Many instances have occurred where a succession of patients have come from the same kraal, and from the same house, extending over a period of some years, so that it would appear that infection, in some form or other, remains in the house after the patient has been removed to hospital.

The great majority of patients that have been admitted to Ngomahuru during the past 14 years have come from small kraals in the Native reserves of S. Rhodesia. I have suggested that all such huts should be burnt down as soon as possible after removal of the patient, or patients.

One Native Commissioner has expressed his opinion to me that the Natives themselves would not be likely to raise any objection.

Some years ago I raised the question of beer drinks as a possible mode of transmission of the disease, and I have also suggested that it would be helpful if a further warning were sent round to Chiefs not to allow lepers to attend beer drinks.