Reading, the then Viceroy, issued an appeal for an Indian branch. The success of this appeal enabled the Indian fund to take over financial responsibility for the Leprosy Research section of the Calcutta School of Tropical Medicine and for work in every province of India.

CLAMP METHOD TO OBTAIN CUTANEOUS LYMPH IN THE DIAGNOSIS OF LEPROSY.

H. C. DE SOUZA-ARAUJO

During research work conducted in Colombia in the early part of 1939 I had an opportunity of examining the Lleras method of obtaining skin lymph for the detection of Hansen bacilli. My Colombian colleagues used the common clamp of Pean to produce ischaemia of the affected part, thereafter obtaining lymph by a single puncture of the lesion.

Returning to Brazil I introduced the Lleras method with certain modifications. 1. The area of skin to be examined is, after sterilisation, gripped up with a haemostatic clamp of Pean (See fig. 1. Ref. fig. 2538 Catalogue Jetter and Scheerer). The blades are tightened till the first, second or third tooth of the handle is engaged according to the thickness of the skin. 2. The area of skin thus clamped, say 5 cms. long, becomes quite ischæmic within a minute. It is then punctured deeply at four separate points with a large needle. 3. Four drops of clear lymph exuded from the sub-corium are collected each with a vaccination pen and smeared separately on a new and cleaned slide. The slide requires a few hours to dry and is best covered with a Petri dish to avoid contamination from the air. 4. The slide is then stained by the usual Ziehl Neelsen method.

This modification of the Lleras method by eliciting four samples of material, proportionately increases the chances of finding bacilli as compared with single smear scraping methods.

When the lesion to be examined is situated in a region of the body characterised by dense subcutaneous tissue, e.g. the back, buttocks, etc., the technique is modified by using two clamps.

Where the lymph is obtained from a diffuse lepromatous lesion, the quantity of acid fast bacilli found in each microscopic field is enormous. Further, these bacilli stand out conspicuously owing
to the absence of tissue elements such as are found in scrapings.

It is suggested that this may be the method of choice for the
detection of bacilli in tuberculoid or incharacteristic lesions. In
my experience, bacilli may be found in all cases of tuberculoid
leprosy even in some cases in bundles or globi by this method,
although such bacilli may not be demonstrable in ordinary histo­
pathological sections.

The Lleras technique is an excellent method for the examina­
tion of institution cases for parole and in general in the control
of treatment.

STAINING NODULES OF THE
LEPROSY BACILLUS.

G. M. de Oliveira Castro

During the course of a study of the lepra bacillus I have
elaborated two staining methods: Method I for staining structures
which in this paper are called "bacilli nodules," or "nodules"
for short, and which I believe to be identical with those seen by
Albert Neisser as early as 1881; and represented in pen drawings
in his "Weitere Beiträge zur Aetiologie der Lepra"; Method II
which stains the well known "Coccothrix granules" fully reported
by Adolfo Lutz in "Zur Morphologie des Mikroorganismus der
Lepra" published in 1886.

I have obtained very good results with both. Method I has
been submitted to the test of routine work with success, Method II
is still under test and I hope to publish it in an early number of
this "Leprae Review.

METHOD I.

By utilising the property of salts of precipitating the dye of
a carbol-fuchsin solution, this method is connected with F. B.
Cooper’s modification of Ziehl-Neelsen, but it is different in other
respects.

For the sake of clarity I shall begin by stating the chief points
of Cooper’s modification in his own words:

"Ammonium chloride, ammonium sulphate, barium chloride,
calcium chloride, magnesium chloride, ferric chloride, lead acetate,
mercuric chloride, sodium chloride, sodium dichromate and
secondary sodium phosphate all cause the precipitation of the dye
material from carbol-fuchsin when added in proper amounts. The