

Leprosy in India, Vol. 26, No. 4 (Oct. 1954).

This number contains an article by Dharmendra and K. R. Chatterjee on a clinical trial of Cepharranthin, an alkaloid recommended by certain Japanese workers in the treatment of leprosy and tuberculosis. The authors' own summary is as follows:

"Fifteen previously untreated cases (7 lepromatous and 8 tuberculoid) were treated with Cepharranthin for an average period of 41 weeks for the lepromatous, and 52 weeks for the tuberculoid cases. The doses originally used by the Japanese workers were found to be too high, and the maximum weekly dose had to be kept at 1.2 mg. for the tuberculoid cases, and 1 mg. for the lepromatous cases.

"Of the 7 lepromatous cases, there was no improvement in 3, the disease progressively increased in 2, and there was definite improvement in 2. (In the last 2 cases discontinuation of treatment was followed by a setback and progressive increase in the disease.) Of the 8 tuberculoid cases, 1 showed definite and lasting improvement, 4 showed initial improvement later followed by setback, and the remaining 3 showed no improvement.

“ It can therefore be concluded that our experience with Cepharanthin has not confirmed the previous favourable reports about its use in the treatment of leprosy.”

J. D. Kanakaraj writes on “ Surgical Trends in Leprosy,” discussing plastic surgery, including excision of redundant leprous tissue, correction of nasal deformities by cartilage graft, operations to correct gynaecomastia, tendon transplantation for the relief of hand deformities.

Dharmendra and N. R. Sen report on a study of the treatment of tuberculoid reaction with Vitamin C, as recommended by certain French workers. No striking results were reported.

The rest of this issue is devoted to abstracts of literature and reports.