

OJI RIVER,
ONITSHA AREA,
NIGERIA LEPROSY SERVICE.
15th November, 1958.

The Editor,
Leprosy Review
Dear Sir,

Vadrine "131" in the Treatment of Leprosy

I was interested to see that Vadrine had been tried by Drs. W. H. Jopling and D. S. Ridley in human leprosy and that Dr. H. Brodhage reported on its effect in experimental murine leprosy (*Leprosy Review*, 29, 3; July, 1958, pp. 143 and 148).

At Oji River, we also tried it and found it of no value, and I have written to the manufacturers to this effect. The reports in *Leprosy Review* make it necessary to publish our findings. We are grateful to Messrs. Geistlich for the generous supply of this drug for trial.

The experiment was carried out by Dr. K. M. Ellis and myself, and at the beginning and the end of the trial Dr. T. F. Davey saw the patients and checked results, and has confirmed our findings.

The manufacturers advised a daily dose of 20 to 40 mg./kg. We chose four untreated lepromatous patients, and two borderline who had shown slow progress on DDS and thiacetazone.

Results:

- i. A nodular lepromatous patient became noticeably worse with ulceration of nodules.
- ii. One became worse by showing an increase in the skin thickening and the nerve pain; this was not a case of erythema nodosum leprosum.
- iii. The bacterial index of two cases became higher than at the beginning.
- iv. Patients who had received previous treatment remained unchanged.
- v. Only one showed any improvement. This was a grossly anaemic and undernourished patient, who improved in general health as a result of receiving a good diet, but the leprosy showed no improvement.
- vi. We transferred all the lepromatous patients to DDSO and they subsequently showed the usual expected improvement over six months, and slight bacteriological improvement.

On this evidence we have discontinued the use of Vadrine, having found a marked contrast to the consistent good results from DDS, DDSO and DPT.

Yours sincerely,
A. S. GARRETT,
Area Superintendent.