

2. From R. RHODES-JONES, ESQ., F.I.M.L.T., of the East African Leprosy Research Centre, on the *Technique of Staining Leprosy Bacilli in Smears*. He refers to the article by A. R. DAVISON on this subject in LEPROSY REVIEW 31, 4. He states that Dr. Davison in that article quoted from a letter from him and that Dr. Davison had failed in that article to notice that slides 1-3 had faded, and it was for that reason Mr. Rhodes-Jones had to restrain them. Slides 4 to 6 had *not* faded, so were not restrained, though it would seem from Dr. Davison's article that they were. In all the slides the bacilli had stained blue, which masked the pale pink diphtheroids. This is the meaning of the term "masked".

[In this question of fading of stained specimens, we think a possible explanation is the effect of excess of light. In East Africa the intensity of natural radiation of ultraviolet light is 12 times that in Switzerland. To put it another way, places in East Africa *in one month* may have the ultraviolet radiation of a whole year in Switzerland. In a laboratory with plenty of windows, specimens placed even for 1 hour or 2 hours not too far away from a window, and perchance not covered, might well get into trouble even before staining? *Editor.*]