

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

MINISTRY OF HEALTH,
P.O. BOX 8093, CAUSEWAY, SALISBURY,
RHODESIA AND NYASALAND.

Dear Sir,

I have read with great interest the paper by Dr. N. D. Fraser of the Mission to Lepers which appears on pages 141 to 153 of the *Leprosy Review* Vol. 33 No. 2 of April, 1962. The report does however contain some inaccuracies which you may consider should be drawn to the attention of the author. It is not unexpected that the Federal organisation in Rhodesia and Nyasaland has rather confused Dr. Fraser.

Dr. Currant was not the Leprosy Specialist for the Federation; the Federal Ministry employs three Leprosy Specialists all on the highest specialist scale, one stationed in each Region, Dr. Griffiths in Northern Rhodesia (who has replaced Dr. Currant), Dr. Currie in Nyasaland and Dr. Allan in Southern Rhodesia. Dr. Currant was therefore not the Leprosy Specialist of the Federation but the Leprosy Specialist for the Northern Rhodesia Region of the Federal Ministry of Health.

Later on page 147 there is reference to the Health Department of the Northern Rhodesia Government. This Government has no health department and it is obvious that Dr. Fraser really meant to refer to the Northern Rhodesia Region of the Federal Ministry of Health. This confusion is not really very surprising because it is not really very usual that Health should in a Federal system be a Federal rather than a regional responsibility, although here the Constitution does not bar the Territorial Government from operating in the health field. They would, however, be rather unlikely to do so when the allocation of financial responsibility for the subject rests with the Federal Government.

Yours faithfully,

I. M. BLAIR,
Secretary for Health.