

## EDITORIAL

### 1. Regeneration of Peripheral-Nerve Defects by Irradiated Homografts

There is a letter by LEONARD MARMØR on this subject in *The Lancet*, 1st June 1963, p. 1191, which seems of considerable importance to those engaged in rehabilitation of leprosy patients. Homografts have not previously been successful in man, because they provoke such a severe inflammatory response that the graft is reduced to a fibrous band.

Work at present in progress at the University of California at Los Angeles has resulted in the successful bridging of large gaps in peripheral nerves without the use of autografts. An inflammatory response can be prevented by the use of ionising radiations; and, in the preliminary experiments to be described here, high-energy electrons were used as the source of radiation.

MARMØR describes technique and two illustrative case reports in which encouraging results are given.

### 2. Therapy of Leprosy

In this issue there are several papers which add to and guide our knowledge of this field of leprosy. I draw attention to the paper by DR. M. F. R. WATERS on what might be described as a balanced trial of Macrocyclon in leprosy.

Also DR. TADASHI HIRAKO and HOSAKU SAKURAI pay attention chiefly to Sulfamethoxypyridazine.

DR. LOGINOV and his co-workers have been interested in a derivative of diphenylthiourea. This Russian work has been translated and reprinted in English so as to make available this interesting work in therapy.