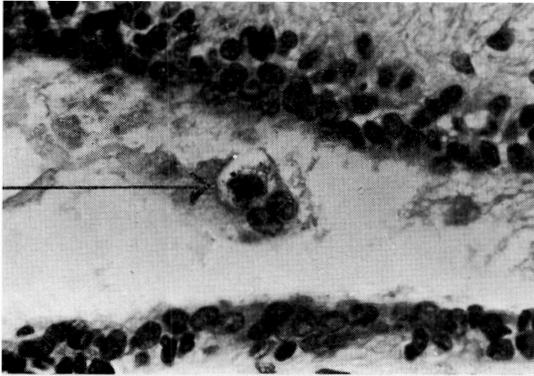


# The presence of *M. leprae* in the Lumina of the Female Mammary Gland

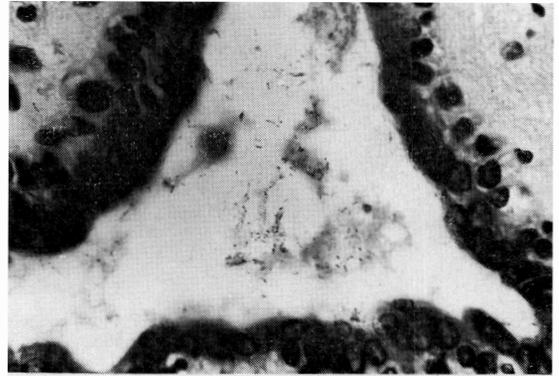
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A

*M. leprae* in globus arrangement (see arrow) in the lumen of a mammary gland.



B

*M. leprae* in irregularly staining form in the lumen of a mammary gland duct.

The purpose of this brief article is to report the finding of *M. leprae* in the lumina of the mammary gland of a woman whose case was described in a previous paper<sup>1</sup> before this finding had come to light.

Ten weeks after the discovery of *M. leprae* in the breast secretion of this woman (during which time 450 mgm. of DDS had been administered), the writer took a biopsy from the glandular portion of the right breast at approximately 2 cm. from the areola margin.

HISTOPATHOLOGY (see accompanying photomicrographs)

Sections of the biopsy, stained with Triff Stain, showed a scattering of numerous acid-fast bacilli—most of which were in non-solid staining form—in the lumen of a lactiferous duct cut in longitudinal section. Other groups of fragmented bacilli were present in cellular debris shed into the lumen of ducts, and an occasional irregular staining bacillus was present between the cells lining the ducts. In one duct cut in

longitudinal section a large globus full of fragmented bacilli was present in the lumen. Occasional fragmented bacilli were also found in the lumina of atrophied alveoli. In contrast to the very obvious presence of bacilli in the lumina of the gland, the bacilli in the intervening tissue between the ducts and alveoli were very scanty.

## DISCUSSION

The appearance of the bacilli in the biopsy section—mostly in fragmented form—compared with those seen 10 weeks previously in the breast secretion<sup>1</sup> when the majority were in solid rod form, seems to prove the efficacy of DDS treatment in rapidly reducing the bacilli to insignificance. The same conclusion was reached in the continuation notes of the writer's former paper describing the presence of *M. leprae* in human milk<sup>2</sup>. There, 450 mgm. of DDS, administered over a period of 3 months, also reduced the bacilli in the milk to insignificance.

#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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#### REFERENCES

1. PEDLEY, J. C. The Presence of *M. leprae* in the Breast Secretion of a Non-lactating Woman with Lepromatous Leprosy. *Lep. Rev.* (1968), **39**, 3, 111-112.
2. PEDLEY, J. C. The Presence of *M. leprae* in Human Milk. *Lep. Rev.* (1967), **38**, 4, 239-242.