

# Letter to the Editor

The report of Dr. Crawford in *Leprosy Review* of July, 1969 (**40**, 159), about the reduction of leprosy prevalence in Northern Nigeria from 43/1000 in 1952-5 to 1.6/1000 in 1967-8 is extremely interesting and highly significant. If his findings are correct, this is the greatest argument for widespread DDS prophylaxis yet submitted.

As part of that widespread use of DDS in Northern Nigeria during that period, I must admit that my colleagues and I resisted the idea of such "promiscuous" use of a dangerous drug. The cost of DDS on the black market was then 6d. per tablet (a workman's wage was then 10d.). The Government's policy of providing DDS free to all requiring or suspected of requiring anti-

leprosy therapy completely knocked the bottom out of the black market. Dr. Crawford's study would indicate that it would also knock prevalence of leprosy down rapidly.

The evidence for, and support of, DDS prophylaxis are increasing.

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