

Letters to the Editor

It was refreshing to read "Epidemiology and Leprosy Control" by Dr Meade (*Lepr. Rev.*, 1971, 42, 14) and his assertion of a long-awaited need to apply epidemiological fundamentals to the control of leprosy. Especially important is the need to focus our attention on *primary prevention*. We have long preached, and correctly so, early diagnosis and treatment, which Dr Meade points out is unlikely to contribute much towards the ultimate eradication of leprosy. Appropriately, our efforts should be paying attention not alone to reducing the established infectious reservoir, but to primary prevention directed at high-risk groups and the reduction of incidence. Unfortunately, even secondary prevention has not been, and is not being, extensively practised, and large sums of precious human and material resources are being drained from needy control efforts by institutional programs and poorly administered control programs which contribute nothing to control.

More please.

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LEPROSY OR HANSENIASIS?

I was very interested in the correspondence relating to a proposed new terminology to replace the stigmatizing word "leprosy".

Being a simple microbiologist, and not a leprologist or Hansenologist, I am curious to know why workers in this field propose to use the appellation "hanseniasis" and not "hansenosis"; the latter appears to me to be slightly but decidedly less of a tongue-twister and moreover would fall in line with other commonly used bacteriological nomenclatures such as Shigellosis and Salmonellosis, Listeriosis and Brucellosis as against Amoebiasis, and Leishmaniasis, and Schistosomiasis (Bilharziasis).

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