Acknowledgements

The present study was carried out at the Institute of Hygiene and Social Medicine, University of Bergen. However, I am very much indebted to Professor Erik Waaler, MD, former head of the Department of Pathology, who as a chairman of the Organizing Committee, Tenth International Leprosy Congress (Bergen, 1973), suggested this area of research. Furthermore, I wish to express my sincere gratitude to the former head of the Institute of Hygiene and Social Medicine, Professor Tor Bjerkedal, MD, M P H. His interest and enthusiasm as well as sound scepticism and criticism were of great importance to the study. Working facilities and assistance have been provided at the Institute for which I am most grateful. I also want to thank Professor Anders Chr Gogstad, MD, the present head of the Institute. The secretarial assistance of Mrs Solveig Lexander and Mrs Harriet Torvund has been of great help and is highly appreciated.

I want to express my gratitude for the most valuable assistance given by The EDP Section of The Faculty of Medicine; Mrs Anne Grethe Sleire Graham and Mrs Sonja Antoniazzi for punching, and cand real Rolv Skjærven, cand real Geir Egil Eide, cand real Dag Vaula, cand real Alf Aksland, dr. philos. Ivar Heuch, cand real Siri Nome Eikhom and siv ing Ove Eriksen for programming and statistical advice of various kinds. Linguistic correction of the manuscript was kindly undertaken by Julia Anthonisen, B.Sc., to whom I am greatly indebted.

I also want to express my gratitude to Jindrich Kazda, PhD, Forschunginstitut Borstel, West Germany. The cooperation with him has been most valuable.

I am indebted to The National Archives (Bergen and Oslo), The Bergen Collections on the History of Medicine and the Medical Section of the University Library for kind assistance.

I have received financial support from Norwegian Research Council for Science and the Humanities (NAVF), British Leprosy Relief Association (LEPRA), Norwegian Agency for International Development (NORAD), Rebekka Ege Hegermanns Legat, The Gade Foundation and Armauer og Klaus Hanssens fond. All support is gratefully acknowledged.