

TO GET IT DONE—IT SIMPLY NEEDS DOING!
REPLY TO 'THE TEACHING OF LEPROSY TO MEDICAL STUDENTS'

Sir,

Those of us who have the expertise need to take the initiative and offer our services (*Lepr Rev*, 1986, 57: 97–100). We are the only ones who can do it. One who doesn't have the knowledge and experience certainly cannot teach the subject. Nor can we leave it to the administrators of schools to take the initiative.

In 1969 I felt it imperative to expose Nigerian medical students to knowledge about leprosy, since such a significant aspect of the medical panorama of the country is due to leprosy. When I broached the subject with the administration of Ahmadu Bello University I found them receptive and gained the full cooperation of the Department of Medicine headed by Professor Eldrid Parry. So together with Dr Anthony Bryceson, we set up a curriculum and developed a schedule that in the space of 10 days devoted more than 70 hrs to intensive didactic and clinical sessions on leprosy. The programme was most enthusiastically received by the students. Even though it was held 475 miles from the school the students eagerly accepted the hardship and discomfort entailed in taking part.

The disease leprosy, and the knowledge we now have of it, plus the intriguing things we don't know about it, comprises some of the most interesting material that medical students can be exposed to in the present-day practice of medicine.

We may develop posters, slides, tapes, video productions—all sorts of teaching aids, but it takes the initiative of someone with experience and the recognition of the importance of leprosy to initiate programmes in order to expose students to sources of information. In truth, no more study, discussion, proposals are required! It simply takes capable people who are willing and able to devote the time it takes to teaching. Clearly, the ball is in *our* court!

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