

COMMENT: THE USE OF HONEY AND SUGAR FOR THE TREATMENT OF ULCERS IN LEPROSY

Sir,

J M Grange¹ has mentioned that honey promotes wound healing and inhibits the growth of bacteria. Also in an earlier letter L A Wiseman² had suggested the use of sugar as an aid to wound healing and the treatment of ulcers in leprosy.

If we accept this treatment and bring it in use, we may invite trouble in the form of ants, houseflies and bluebottle flies which are ubiquitous and rampant especially in the third world where the incidence of leprosy is higher.

Maggots in leprosy ulcers are a common phenomenon in India. It is beyond anybody's capacity to remove the deep-seated maggots from leprotic ulcers. Treating such patients with honey dressings will attract more flies, worsening the maggot menace.

Therefore, the use of honey or sugar in the treatment of leprosy ulcers may not be practicable in countries like India.

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References

- ¹ Grange JM. Honey and propolis as possible promoters of the healing of ulcers in leprosy. *Lepr Rev*, 1990; **61**: 195.
- ² Wiseman LA. Sugar as an aid to wound healing and the treatment of ulcers in leprosy. *Lepr Rev*, 1989; **60**: 67-8.