

COMMENT: DISAPPOINTING EXPERIENCES WITH BLISTER-CALENDAR PACKS

Sir,

I am sure that you will have had a number of letters concerning the problem raised in a previous Letter to the Editor published in *Lepr Rev.* 1993, **64**, 171, by P. Lever and H. Boutmy. First I was disturbed to read that crushed dapsona powder could be used specially for those who are allergic to dapsona. We have also found that patients are unable to remove medication, and on my white wall I have an area of lamprene that refuses to be removed. First we used folic acid, but this also had its problems as one can grow fungi even in air-conditioned rooms. Baking soda and baking powder have all been tried so I too would be very grateful if anyone can help.

Direct sunlight here causes the temperature to rise to over 50°C and the humidity is also very high. For those who cannot manage to remove the tablets from the blister pack, we remove them ourselves. That is why I have no fingernails to speak of!

It is most important not to overload containers---even tobacco tins in third world countries are airtight, although the availability of these is restricted as many people do not smoke.

*Disease Control Unit
Raihu Health Centre
Box 13 Aitape
Sandown Province
Papua New Guinea*

JACQUELINE ELDRED