ent from those of the human host. It has become more clear that the methenamine silver staining technique demonstrates more *M. leprae* than routine acid-fast staining. In immunology, progress continues in the development and utilization of serologic tests in leprosy. More and more sophisticated antigenic analysis of *M. leprae* is being reported. Several lines of investigation point to serum factors in lepromatous leprosy patients, which are antiinflammatory and/or immunosuppressive. Mixtures of viable BCG and dead *M. leprae* have shown promise as immunostimulants in leprosy patients and as possible vaccines. Controversies are developing as to the presence of suppressor cells in leprosy patients and interpretations as to their role in the pathogenesis of the disease and their role in the hypersensitivity reactions occurring during the disease. More evidence is accumulating that monocytes and macrophages are defective in lepromatous leprosy. Biochemical effects of viable *M. leprae* on macrophages and Schwann cells have been presented. More information about the association between HLA antigens and leprosy is available. Subclinical infections seem to be much more common than we suspected a year ago. Evidence has appeared that babies of mothers with lepromatous leprosy may be exposed to *M. leprae in utero*. The possibility that *M. leprae* may exist outside an animal host has been put forth. Nonhuman primates with spontaneous leprosy-like disease have been reported. Clearer evidence for the mechanism of action of dapsone has been presented. Emphasis continues to be placed on combination chemotherapy in the treatment of multibacillary cases in an effort to reduce a growing problem secondary dapsone-resistant disease.

In the perspective of the JOURNAL, 1980 was a year of steady progress in a number of areas in leprosy, a year of consolidation and building on past knowledge, a year with a number of intriguing hypotheses and observations, and a year of promise. I look forward with impatient optimism to 1981.

—RCH

The JOURNAL is Late

We apologize for the late appearance of the December 1980 issue (48:4), which was mailed on 12 March 1981, and the present issue which will also appear some three months behind schedule. To some extent this has been due to unavoidable production delays at the printer, but, perhaps more importantly, it has been due to an unusually lengthy December issue (185 pp.), which included the U.S.-Japan Cooperative Medical Science Leprosy Research Conference and the Index for 1980. We are making every effort to accelerate our production schedule (within the limits of available material) and hope to be back on schedule by the December issue. We regret the inconvenience this is creating and appreciate your patience.

—RCH