

of our knowledge on mycobacterial infections sensitization is an immunologically "specific" phenomenon; whereas immunization (as far as it results in protection) is "unspecific," i.e., independent of specific antigens or antibodies. Hence, there can be no effective vaccine against leprosy so long as research in this field is based on the principle of BCG vaccination.

The communication of Ridley (<sup>1</sup>), which is based on keen observation and great experience, might be an impetus to again focus attention on the sensitizing potency of *M. leprae* in man and his reaction to it, since

all endeavors to fit "correct" immunological findings in a "wrong" concept must inevitably fail.

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### On the JOURNAL's 50th Anniversary

TO THE EDITOR:

Exactly half a century ago, on the first of January, the first issue of the INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF LEPROSY came out.

During those 50 years the JOURNAL has been propagating in the world valuable information on leprosy. This has had a great impact on the fight against leprosy in which your efforts have made great contributions. On the 50th anniversary of IJL we send

our best congratulations to you and your family; to Prof. M. F. Lechat, president of ILA; Dr. S. G. Browne, secretary, ILA; Dr. W. Felton Ross, treasurer, ILA, and to all contributing editors and their families.

—Dr. Tran Huu-Ngoan

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