SOME DATA ON THE INFLUENCE OF
BCG VACCINATION IN LEPROSY PATIENTS

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Cases of leprosy were studied at Wafania, Congo Belge. Firstly, 300 cases were submitted to the lepromin test by Wade's technique, and the late or Mitsuda Reaction read at 21 days. An area of reaction of 6 mm. or more was read as positive, of 2 mm. or less as negative, and 3, 4 and 5 mm. as doubtful. The results were:—

<i>Lepromatous</i>			<i>Indeterminate</i>			<i>Tuberculoid</i>		
+	—	±	+	—	±	+	—	±
2	112	6	23	41	22	59	22	21

Next, the Mantoux Test was carried out in cases which had shown a negative Mitsuda. The Mantoux was done with 1/10 of 1% Tuberculin. The results were:—

<i>Lepromatous</i>		<i>Indeterminate</i>		<i>Tuberculoid</i>	
Strongly Positive	Negative or Slightly Positive	Strongly Positive	Negative or Slightly Positive	Strongly Positive	Negative or Slightly Positive
32	44	6	21	1	14

Thirdly, BCG vaccination was given in the Mantoux-negative and slightly positive cases, and two months later a second Mitsuda reading was made. The results were:—

<i>Lepromatous</i>			<i>Indeterminate</i>			<i>Tuberculoid</i>		
+	—	±	+	—	±	+	—	±
4	31	9	5	3	13	8	0	6

The results show that BCG has little influence on the Mitsuda status of the lepromatous type of leprosy, but there is a favourable modification in the tuberculoid type, for 8 cases out of 14 became positive. There is a difficulty in that the lepromatous patients who have the graver prognosis, are frequently Mantoux-positive. (32 out of 76 cases in this series), which prevents the BCG vaccination being done.