APPENDIX

Glossary

Abduction (of fingers). The act of separating them.

Adduction (of fingers). The act of approximating them.

Antibody. A substance in the body which reacts with a specific antigen.

Antigen. A substance which when introduced into the body causes the formation of antibody.

Autonomic nerve. A nerve belonging to a system of nerves acting independently of the will and not controlled by the will, e.g., the nerves controlling blood vessels, cardiac action and peristalsis.

Bactericidal. Having a direct antibacterial effect. Therefore killing bacteria quickly.

Bacteriostatic. Having an indirect antibacterial effect, e.g., by interfering with bacterial nutrition. Therefore killing bacteria slowly.

BCG vaccine. A vaccine made from bacillus Calmette-Guerin, an avirulent strain of bovine tubercle bacillus.

BI. Bacterial Index, i.e., the concentration of bacilli in a skin smear or biopsy.

Biopsy. Removal of a piece of tissue from a living subject for diagnostic purposes.

Carville. The official United States hospital for the treatment of leprosy. It is situated in Louisiana.

Chaulmoogra oil. An oil obtained from the seeds of a tree indigenous to southern Asia, formerly used in the treatment of leprosy.

Cell-mediated immunity (CMI). Specific immunity that is mediated by small lymphocytes which are thymus-dependent and known as T cells or T lymphocytes.

Claw fingers (claw hand). The affected fingers are extended (dorsiflexed) at the metacarpo-phalangeal joint and flexed at the first interphalangeal joint.

Conjunctivitis. Inflammation of the conjunctiva (the delicate membrane lining the eyelids and covering the eye in front).

Cornea. The transparent structure forming the anterior part of the external layer of the eyeball.

Corticosteroid. A hormone produced by the adrenal cortex (cortisol) or a related synthetic hormone of greater activity, weight for weight (prednisone; prednisolone; triamcinolone; dexamethasone, etc.).

Cutaneous. Pertaining to the skin.

Dermis. The true skin (also known as cutis or corium) lying between the epidermis and the subcutaneous tissue.

Dimorphous. Having two forms.

Endemic disease. One which is prevalent in a particular region.
Endogenous. Having origin within the organism.

Fibrosis. The formation of fibrous tissue.

Generation time (of a bacterium). The time taken to divide into two (binary fission).

Genetic. Pertaining to genes—Inherited.

Granuloma. In a section of leprosy lesion examined under the microscope the granuloma is the collection of defensive cells (the cellular reaction), particularly when cell- mediated immunity is present.

Hepatitis. Inflammation of the liver.

Humoral immunity. Immunity pertaining to body fluids, in contrast with cellular (cell-mediated) immunity. It is initiated by small lymphocytes which are thymus-independent and known as B cells or B lymphocytes; these differentiate into plasma cells secreting immunoglobulins.

Hyperpigmentation. Increased pigment or colouring.

IMMLEP. Immunology of leprosy. A research programme under the aegis of WHO.

Insomnia. Inability to sleep.

In vitro. Outside the body.

In vivo. Within the body.

Iridectomy. Surgical removal of part of the iris.

Iridocyclitis. Inflammation of iris and ciliary body.

Iritis. Inflammation of the iris.

Keratitis. Inflammation of the cornea.

Lagophthalmos. Inability to approximate the eyelids.

LEPRA. British Leprosy Relief Association, Fairfax House, Causton Road, Colchester, Essex CO1 1PU.

Lepra cell. A wandering macrophage cell packed full of leprosy bacilli.

Leprosy. A nodule of lepromatous leprosy. The term, as used by histologist, signifies the cellular reaction in lepromatous leprosy.

Leprosarium. A hospital or colony for the isolation and treatment of leprosy patients.

Lymphokines. Substances released by T lymphocytes when they come into contact with antigen to which they have become sensitised.

Macrophage. A histiocyte which has engulffed leprosy bacilli and either forms a wandering macrophage or lepra cell (in LL) or a fixed epithelioid cell (in TT).

Macule. A skin lesion which is not elevated above the surface of the skin and therefore cannot by felt by the examining finger.

Monotherapy. Treatment with one drug.

Morbidity. The condition of being diseased.

Morphology. Structure.
Mucosa. The lining or mucous membrane of parts of the body in contact with air, e.g. mouth, pharynx, trachea, bronchi, gastrointestinal tract.

Multibacillary. Moderate or large numbers of bacilli.

Mutant. In leprosy the word signifies a strain of bacilli resistant to the drug in use.

Nausea. Desire to vomit.

Neilsen. Friedrich Karl Adolph, 1854-1894, German bacteriologist.

Neonatal. Referring to the newborn.

Nodule. A tumour or protuberance of the skin measuring more than 10 mm in diameter.

Pathogen. Any disease-producing microorganism or material.

Pauvilliary. Few bacilli or none.

Pepitic ulceration. Ulceration of stomach or duodenum.

Plantar. Pertaining to the sole of the foot.

Plasma. The fluid (non-cellular) portion of the blood before clotting has occurred.

Polymyelitis. Affecting several (or many) nerves.

Prednisolone. A drug used similarly to cortisone but given in one-fifth the dose. It causes less electrolyte disturbance than cortisone, i.e. less retention of sodium and less elimination of potassium.

Prognosis. Outlook for cure.

Promin. Sodium gluco sulphone. The first sulphone used in leprosy but now largely abandoned as it has to be administered intravenously.

Psychosis. A disease or disorder of the mind.

Segregation. Separation from others.

Stigma. A mark of infamy or disgrace.

Systemic. Affecting the body as a whole.

Testis. Testicle. The male gonad.

THELER. Chemotherapy of Leprosy. A research programme under the aegis of WHO.

Trauma. Injury.

Trimester. A period of three months.

Tuberculoid. Resembling tuberculous. Histologically this means the presence of lymphocytes, epithelioid cells and Langhans giant cells.

Ulcer. An open sore other than a wound.

Ziehl. Franz Ziehl, 1857-1928, German bacteriologist.