

CORRESPONDENCE

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A SHORT SYNOPSIS OF SALIENT FEATURES OF AIM AND RESULTS OF THE
INQUIRY ON STUDY OF INCIDENCE AND RELATIONSHIP OF THE PARENTAL
AND NEONATAL SYPHILIS AND RESULTS OF THE TREATMENT
WITH PENICILLIN AT VARIOUS STAGES

Sir, — I want clarification of some observations made by Dr. B. B. Gokhale in his article published in your Journal April/June 1961 issue. In the Second stage of his article he has mentioned that "27 weakly positive mothers were not given any treatment. The babies and mothers were rechecked up after a period of eight weeks. In 26 cases there was serological improvement both in mother and in their positive off springs". Now how many babies were sero positive? Because he has mentioned in the next line that the Sero negative Offsprings continued to remain so. In the last para of the same page (85) he is stating that weak positive serological reactivity seems to be due to *high sensitivity* of the Test and it seems all the weak positive mothers excepting one were really *normal*. In absence of specific tests what make him to conclude like that. I am, etc.—Ajit Kumar Datta, Calcutta - 12.

Dr. Gokhale's Reply :

Sir, Your letter addressed to the Editor, Indian Journal of Dermatology and Venereology has been forwarded to me by the Editor.

- 1) Out of 27 babies 13 were weakly sero positive at birth. 12 of they became negative at the end of 2 months, without any treatment whatsoever.
- 2) As for the presumption "weak positive serological reactivity seems to be due to high sensitivity of the tests." I have depended on the anamnestic and obstetric history of the patient and whenever possible of the spouse. I have already mentioned on page 86 about the absence of facilities of T.P.I. tests at these institutions.

Incidentally standard kahn's tests could be performed on 20 of these sera, and was found to be negative in all the cases. These 20 cases do not include one case where in the mother or the child had not shown a serological improvement. Thanking you, Etc. — B. B. Gokhale.

Poona 1. 1-8-1961.
