

For Your Attention Please

The following is the copy of a letter which speaks for itself

ARMED FORCES INSTITUTE
OF PATHOLOGY,
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20306

16th May, 1983

Dear Dr. Pasricha,

For sometime now the leprosy registry has been interested in leprosy in infants. In collaboration with Merlin L. Brubaker, M.D., former Regional Advisor for Leprosy for The World Health Organisation, Region of the Americas (PAHO), we are undertaking an in-depth survey of the problem. We are aware, from personal experience and from a survey of the files of the Leprosy Registry at the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology of several infants under one year of age who had leprosy, proven by clinical and histopathologic findings. We believe that a detailed study of leprosy in this age group will provide valuable information on at least two controversial issues.

- (1) The minimal incubation period of leprosy.
- (2) Intrauterine infection of the fetus by *Mycobacterium leprae*.

As one who is knowledgeable in leprosy we are inviting your cooperation to provide us with any information you may have on leprosy in infants under one year of age. These may be either infants you have personally diagnosed or treated or any others you know of in the geographic areas where you have worked.

We need as much information for each patient as can be reasonably supplied on the following :

- (1) Basis for the diagnosis (e.g. clinical manifestations, bacteriologic findings or histopathologic changes).
- (2) Classification of leprosy, and any information available on the course of the disease.
- (3) Suspected source(s) of infection (e.g. parents, siblings, other contacts, or unknown). If the contact is a parent what was the classification and status of disease at the time of birth of the patient.
- (4) Have the patients been the subjects of any published report? This will help to reduce duplication in reporting.