

REPORT OF THE LEPROSY COMMISSION.

This commission, which was composed of three commissioners appointed by the College of Physicians, the College of Surgeons and the Executive Committee of the National Leprosy Fund and two members of the Indian Medical Service, have completed their work and issued their report. The English members of the commission were Drs. Beaven Rake, Buckmaster and Mr. A. A. Kanthack, and associated with them were Surgeon-Majors A. Barclay and S. J. Thompson, of the Bengal Medical Service.

The commission remained in India for about twelve months, making the most careful enquiries and availing themselves of all opportunities of studying the disease.

An abstract of the report has been published in the *British Medical Journal*, and from it we take the following conclusions arrived at by the commission.

It is shown by the figures of the census that, as the disease attacks all tracts of land more or less, no generalizations can be arrived at regarding the geographical distribution.

The leper population has remained stationary, there being no increase in the relative number of cases, but rather the reverse.

Whenever cholera is endemic, leprosy is prevalent, hence, as there is no causal connection between the two, there must be present in these localities some permanent conditions predisposing to leprosy. There is also evidence that leprosy is more common in the poverty-stricken districts.

The natives are most prone to the disease, and the unmixed European the least.

The statement of the anti-vaccinationists that leprosy has been spread by means of vaccination is disproved by the fact that during the last thirty years leprosy has not increased, also that in the bacterioscopic examination of vaccine lymph, in no case were leprosy bacilli undoubtedly found, although, in six out of ninety-three observations, suspicious rods, etc., were seen.

Regarding hereditary transmission the conclusion arrived at is: "That leprosy in India cannot be considered a hereditary disease, and they would even venture to say that the evi-