

I-8.

A Series of Exchanges on Popperian Philosophy in Epidemiology:

Carol Buck: Popper's Philosophy for Epidemiologists.

International Journal of Epidemiology 1975; 4:159-168.

With Replies by: A. Michael Davies (Int J Epidemiol 1975; 4:169-171),

Alwyn Smith (Int J Epidemiol 1975; 4:171-172),

Andrew Creese (Int J Epidemiol 1975; 4:352-353),

Richard Peto (Int J Epidemiol 1976; 5:97), and

Carol Buck (Int J Epidemiol 1976; 5:97-98).

M. Jacobsen: Against Popperized Epidemiology.

International Journal of Epidemiology 1976; 5:9-11.

I had been exposed to the writings of Karl Popper and Thomas Kuhn as an undergraduate, but their views came to life for me with their appearance in the epidemiologic literature in the mid-1970's. The debate over the value and meaning of Popper's philosophy for epidemiology continues (see, e.g., Am J Epidemiol 1986; 123:199, 965, and 1119), but the following exchange from the *International Journal of Epidemiology* inspired a broader search for methodologic insights from the philosophy of science, in addition to fueling the debate over whether epidemiology should regard itself as a branch of science or public health. Of course, the exchange settled nothing and so I will refrain from commenting on it, but I recommend the following readings to those intrigued by the philosophical issues:

Brown HI. *Perception, Theory, and Commitment*. Chicago: Precedent Publishing Inc., 1977.Kuhn TS. *The Structure of Scientific Revolutions*. Second edition. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1970.Lakatos I, Musgrave A, eds. *Criticism and the Growth of Knowledge*. New York: Cambridge University Press, 1970.Miller D, ed. *Popper Selections*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1985.Popper KR. *The Logic of Scientific Discovery*. New York: Harper and Row, 1968.