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## EDITORIALS

*Editorials are written by members of the Editorial Board and opinions expressed are those of the writers.*

### LEPROSY RESEARCH AND THE WAR

Considering the importance of leprosy and the deficiencies of our knowledge concerning it, the number of persons engaged in the study of the disease has been relatively small. This renders the present situation all the more serious. For of those who in recent years have been most active a large proportion are now in the hands of the enemy. Others are in military service. Many of the remainder are handicapped severely by lack of assistants and materials.

It may be taken for granted that all who are in a position to do so will continue their work. It is especially important that clinical and field studies, the value of which depends upon continuity of observation, should not be interrupted. Modification may be necessary but discontinuation means loss of valuable data and, perhaps even more serious, flagging of interest.

Cognizant of the dangers of the situation the American Leprosy Foundation has taken two important steps. The first recognizes Latin America as the most promising current source of scientific workers in leprosy. Fellowships are being offered to physicians of these countries and a descriptive note will be found in the News Items of this issue. The second action maintains a medium for publication of original articles. Special issues of *THE JOURNAL* will be published from time to time as sufficient numbers of manuscripts are received.

It is understood that the Foundation will continue its policy of aiding research projects with modest grants, especially those on which some progress has been made without assistance and in which failure to continue will mean serious loss of invested time and ma-

terials. The Trustees have made no restrictions except proper local sponsorship, approval by the Foundation's Medical Advisory Board and availability of funds. The project may be carried on in the clinic or leprosarium, in the laboratory or in the field.

These actions of the Foundation will gain approval of all leprosy workers and the support of the public which finances its undertakings. There is but one final objective, namely, eradication of leprosy. This can be attained only by persevering research, along lines which appear to be most promising, directed by men of the highest scientific abilities.

J. A. D. *oull*