

INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF LEPROSY

PUBLISHED AS THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE INTERNATIONAL
LEPROSY ASSOCIATION WITH THE AID OF THE
LEONARD WOOD MEMORIAL

Postal Address: Dept. of Hygiene and Bacteriology, School of Medicine, 2109
Adelbert Rd., Western Reserve University, Cleveland 6, Ohio.

Entered at the Post Office at Cleveland as second-class matter.

Vol. 11 Second Special War Number and Volume 1943

EDITORIALS

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

LEPROSY IN THE POSTWAR WORLD

In the leading article of this issue, entitled "A World within a World," Mr. Perry Burgess offers a plan designed to overcome financial as well as other obstacles which have prevented the establishment of leprosaria throughout the world on an adequate scale. Leprosaria are an elemental necessity in the control of leprosy, yet probably not more than one or two per cent of those who might be benefited are under institutional care. Mr. Burgess' proposal, although not new to sociologists, has never been applied to leprosy. Its essence is a confederation of leprosaria, made largely self-supporting through specialization in production and by interchange of products. Areas for healthy relatives are to be established near by.

The title of Mr. Burgess' article, and the plan itself, will bring home to leprosy workers the necessity for an international attack on the disease. Leprosaria, hospitals, dispensaries, and, above all, scientific research are necessary. But the attack on leprosy should be coordinated with a new world public health program.

Much that has been written regarding the future may fade with victory, but it can be predicted safely that medicine and public health will assume a major role in the postwar world. Already there are indications. The war in the Pacific is in large part a public health war. Malaria and dysentery are causing four times as many casualties as the Japs. Public interest in matters of health has increased greatly, at least in the United States. Furthermore, in the program of the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration, health protection is

one of the prime objectives. This agency will operate for a temporary period following the war in both European and Asiatic countries. It requires little imagination to foresee the possibilities if the public health functions of this Administration are recognized to be a continuing responsibility of all nations and if a permanent health organization can be established on firmer legal and financial bases than those of the League of Nations. A comprehensive attack on leprosy should be one of the first activities of this organization.

JAMES A. DOULL, M.D.

REQUEST BY THE ACTING EDITOR

Contributors whose articles were accepted for publication by Dr. Wade but which did not appear in the last issue printed in Manila (Sept. 1941) are requested to send duplicates to the acting Editor.