

LEPROSY NEWS AND NOTES

Information concerning institutions, organizations, and individuals connected with leprosy work, scientific or other meetings, legislative enactments, and other matters of interest.

LEONARD WOOD MEMORIAL FELLOWSHIPS: 1943-1944

Eight physicians were selected for special study in the United States from June 1, 1943 to June 1, 1944, by the Leonard Wood Memorial in cooperation with the Office of the Coordinator of Inter-American Affairs. Those selected and their official positions are as follows:

Dr. Nuñez-Andrade of Mexico, Medical Officer in the Office of Prophylaxis of Leprosy in the Federal Department of Health.

Dr. Alberto Caballero V. of Colombia, Assistant Doctor of the National Lazareto de Agua de Dios.

Dr. Eduardo Carboni of Argentina, Physician of Department of Prophylaxis and Antivenereal Diseases; Head of the Dermatology Service in primary schools of Rosario.

Dr. Rafael Cepeda R. of Colombia, Medical-Director of the Lazareto de Cano de Loro.

Dr. Arthur P. Marques of Brazil, Assistant at the Institute Evandro Chaga, Belem, Para.

Dr. Augusto Rodolfo Mercou of Argentina, Head of clinic of Leprosy Service; Assistant physician in Department of Dermatology at Carrasco Hospital in Rosario.

Dr. Luis Rendón Ch. of Ecuador, Director del Leprosario Nacional de Verdecruz.

Dr. Glynne L. Rocha of Brazil, Physician in the National Leprosy Service; Supervisor of Immunological Census in the Seccao Tecnica.

Dr. Nuñez-Andrade of Mexico was called home in August by illness in his family and was unable to complete his studies.

The entire group spent two months in observation at the National Leprosarium at Carville, Louisiana. Enroute to Cleveland they visited Washington University in St. Louis, and the headquarters of the American Medical Association in Chicago, as well as several Chicago hospitals.

The three months at Western Reserve University were spent in the study of Biostatistics, Epidemiology, and Pathology. Some time was also devoted to observation and lectures in Dermatology.

Following this period, the group was divided. Drs. Caballero, Cepeda, and Rendon went to Tulane University for three months study

in Parasitology and Dermatology. Drs. Carboni, Mercau, and Rocha went to New York Post-Graduate Medical School for work in Pathology, Mycology, Allergy, and Dermatology. Dr. Marques remained at Western Reserve University for advanced work in Epidemiology and Pathology. For the last three months of the fellowship program the group were united again at New York Post-Graduate Medical School.

Following a brief visit in Washington, D. C., they will return to their own homes late in May.

LEONARD WOOD MEMORIAL FELLOWSHIPS: 1944-1945

The Leonard Wood Memorial will again sponsor fellowships for Latin-American physicians interested especially in leprosy. The plans for 1944-1945 will differ somewhat from those of the previous year. The Memorial will again recommend the candidates to the Director of the Division of Health and Sanitation of the Coordinator of Inter-American Affairs. Under the new arrangement the Institute of Inter-American Affairs will assume entire responsibility for details of travel, stipends, and personal contacts. The Leonard Wood Memorial will act in an advisory rôle in planning a teaching program in harmony with the capabilities, requirements, and professional responsibilities of the fellows and will arrange for professional placements in schools where such programs may be carried on.

SECOND PAN-AMERICAN LEPROSY CONFERENCE

Plans are being developed for the Second Pan-American Leprosy Conference, scheduled to meet in Rio de Janeiro in 1945. The International Leprosy Association is cooperating with the Pan-American Sanitary Bureau, which is in charge of arrangements. Professor Pedro L. Balina, of Buenos Aires, is the chairman and Dr. H. C. de Souza-Araujo the vice chairman of the Western Section of the International Leprosy Association.

BRAZILIAN PRIZES FOR ARTICLES ON LEPROSY

Largely through the efforts of Dr. H. C. de Souza-Araujo the National Academy of Medicine of Rio de Janeiro has created three prizes to be offered at the Second Pan-American Leprosy Conference. The competition is open to scientists of any American country. Prizes will be awarded for the best papers dealing with the following subjects:

First prize of C R \$10,000 (approximately \$500 in U. S. money): Etiology and Pathogenesis of Leprosy.

Second prize of C R \$5000: Practical Results of Treatment of Leprosy.

Third prize of C R \$5000: History and Epidemiology of Leprosy in Brazil.

DIAGNOSIS OF LEPROSY

The painful sensitivity of hypochromic and achromic patches occasionally presented in suspected or known cases of leprosy can be determined with a needle. According to studies carried out by Drs. Marino Bechecli and Novo Pacheco of São Paulo, when the patches were anesthetic and of leprotic origin puncture did not cause appearance of the reflex and diffuse erythema representing the second stage of the Lewis triplex reaction observed when the skin is submitted to an irritation (Lewis's triplex reaction; third phase papula). Afterward, continuing their investigation, the authors made the histamine tests on the same patches, and the same results were obtained: Absence of reflex erythema in the dychromic leprotic patches and presence of reflex erythema in the bordering normal skin. (The reflex erythema is large and more persistent with histamine than with the puncture alone.) Simple needling alone caused the appearance of reflex erythema within vitiliginous patches. Thus the procedure may be applied in the differential diagnosis of leprotic maculae. The authors studied the mechanism of cutaneous reaction produced by needling and the reasons for its importance in the diagnosis of leprosy. They concluded that the reflex erythema depends on the integrity of the sensory nerves fibres; if these are involved in leprosy the reflex does not appear. It is from this fact that the diagnostic importance of the histamine test and the simple puncture is derived. Because of verifications obtained in several cases, the authors believe that a simple needling is significant in diagnosing the leprotic nature of peripheral anesthesia; moreover, this is a simple subsidiary means that may be applied by the clinician.— [Excerpt from letter of October 20th, 1943 from, "Regular Correspondent of the American Medical Association in Brazil," appearing in the November 27th, 1943 issue of the *Journal of the American Medical Association*.]

SOCIAL SERVICE IN THE FIGHT AGAINST LEPROSY IN BRAZIL

In 1932 there were in Brazil only five affiliated societies in the Federation of Societies for the Assistance of Leprosy Patients and Defense against Leprosy. At the end of 1943 there were 145, scattered all over the country.

The societies have the following objectives: to help the leprosy patients; to make provision for the families of indigent leprosy persons; to take care of the healthy children of leprosy parents; to promote

the sanitary education of the public in general; to provide a means of self-support for patients who have responded well to treatment.

In each state of Brazil the Federation of Societies already has in operation or construction one or more Preventoria for the healthy children of victims of the disease. In 22 of these modern homes, located in 18 states, the Societies are taking care of 2,422 children. In the construction and furnishing of these homes about \$1,200,000 was donated by private contributions, and about \$600,000 was contributed by the Federal Government.

The Societies also help to build chapels, social centers, libraries, schools, work-shops, and athletic fields at the colonies.

In a preventorium, a child may be received immediately after birth and may remain until maturity. There the children are given the same curriculum as in other schools, but each child acquires also, as a means of self-support, a vocation. In order to avoid any undesirable complex in the minds of the children who live in these preventoria, the establishments are called (except when technical language is necessary) *Educa-darios* (Academies).

The Federation's representatives visit the various states and organize campaigns to raise necessary funds. During these campaigns, hundreds of talks on health education have been given. The Federation also publishes a magazine. All but two of the societies are directed by women.

More than 200 children have already passed through the preventoria and have gone out into the world. Many of the young women are today working in public service, or as teachers and nurses.

The Federation not only takes care of the children of leprosy patients but also helps the patients themselves, even after they are able to leave the colony and return to work.

Under the National Leprosy Service the Federal Government is doing much toward taking care of adult leprosy patients, having gathered some 20,000 into comfortable colonies. From five colonies in the State of São Paulo 5000 patients have been discharged with the disease "arrested".

Research on leprosy is being carried on by scientists at the Oswaldo Cruz Institute in Rio de Janeiro and at the Instituto Conde Lara in São Paulo.—EUNICE WEAVER.

PREVENTORIA IN BRAZIL

Until 1935 little attention was given to the children of leprosy patients in Brazil. Living in long and intimate contact with their parents, many of these children became victims of leprosy. In only two

states were there preventoria, and these preventoria cared for only 350 children. In three other states there were emergency homes, but they offered little comfort and cared for few children.

In 1935 active building of preventoria was begun in an effort to save many children who were living with parents suffering from leprosy, or who had been born in a leprous home or colony. This major social service was carried forward by the Federation of Societies for the Assistance of Leprosy Patients and Defense against Leprosy. Today, eight years later, there are 22 modern preventoria taking care of about 2,500 children.

Several of these children in the course of time have gone out from these homes and taken up various occupations: they have become nurses, assistants to dentists and doctors, dressmakers, mechanics, factory workers, and shoemakers. Also several young women who were brought up in the two earliest preventoria have married and have healthy children, a second generation of healthy descendants of leprous parents.

The Brazilian preventorium has a nursery, a kindergarten, a regular school, and a vocational school, especially for training in agriculture. The children work in the gardens and fields, and raise chickens. The girls learn domestic science, cooking, and housekeeping. Children showing unusual talent are later sent to special schools.

The following is a list of the preventoria, with present and contemplated capacity.

Institution	Location	Present Capacity	Future Capacity
Educandario Rio Branco	Acre	In construction	
Educandario Gustavo Capanema	Manaus	100	150
Educandario Eunice Weaver	Para	500	
Asylo Santa Therezinha	São Paulo	60	
Educandario Sto. Antonio	Maranhão	65	100
Educandario Padre Damien	Parnahiba	35	50
Educandario Eunice Weaver	Fortaleza	100	150
Educandario Oswaldo Cruz	Natal	60	100
Educandario Eunice Weaver	Paraiba	65	100
Instituto Guararapes	Recife	100	150
Educandario Eunice Weaver	Alagoas	35	50
Educandario Sto. José	Sergipe	35	50
Educandario Eunice Weaver	Bahia	100	100
Preventorio Alzira Blei	Victoria	70	120
Farm-School Eunice Weaver	Victoria	100	100
Educandario Sta. Maria	Rio de Janeiro	300	300
Nursery Recanto Feliz	Rio de Janeiro	50	50
Preventorio Jacarey	São Paulo	300	300

Institution	Location	Present Capacity	Future Capacity
Asylo Sta. Therezinha	São Paulo	300	300
Nursery Sta. Therezinha	São Paulo	60	60
Educandario Curitiba	Curitiba	200	250
Educandario Sta. Catarina	Florianopolis	200	200
Amparo Sta. Cruz	Porto Alegre	200	250
Preventorio Sta. Tarciso	Belo Horizonte	250	250
Aprendizado Tecnico	Belo Horizonte	50	50
Educandario Olegario Maciel	Varginha Minas	250	300
Educandario Carlos Chagas	Juiz de Fora	200	300
Educandario Getulio Vargas	Campo Grande	150	200
Educandario Afranio Azevedo	Goiania	150	200

All of the preventoria have modern buildings with modern furnishings and equipment; and in all except four, the plan of construction was that of erecting a separate building for each major function; thus the problems of expansion, as need may arise, are minimal.

For the sustaining of these Homes the various Societies of the Federation spent during 1943 more than \$75,000 and the Government contributed for the same purpose about \$700,000.—ANDERSON WEAVER.

GOODNEIGHBORLINESS AND THE COMBAT AGAINST LEPROSY IN PARAGUAY

As a result of the social work in Brazil by the Federation of Societies for the Assistance of Leprosy Patients, the Minister of Health of Paraguay, Colonel Gerardo Buengermine, invited Sra. Eunice Weaver, President of the Federation, to visit Paraguay and study there the possibility of giving a more efficient service to leprosy patients and their families.

Accepting this invitation, Sra. Eunice Weaver went in September, 1943 to Asuncion. The first meeting in the theater attracted much interest, and later lectures were given in various schools and clubs.

Later, a Society for the Assistance of Leprosy Patients and their Families was organized. Sra. Eloisa de Tabeada was elected president of the Society. Immediately this Society began work. As a result the Preventorium built by the Cooperative Health Service of the Coordinator's Office was placed in the keeping of the Society, which will maintain it in the manner that the Societies in Brazil maintain homes in their country. The first twenty inmates came from the Paraguayan colony at Sapucahy, where the healthy children were living with the sick under unfavorable conditions.

The Society will give help not only to the families of leprous persons, but also to the interned patients. As technical advisers, the Society has, besides the Minister of Public Health, Dr. Ramon Prieto and Dr. Manoel Giminez. Both Dr. Giminez and Dr. Prieto have made special studies and done research in Brazil.—ANDERSON WEAVER.