

EUROPE

BULGARIA

Population: 6,549,664

Area: 42,808

According to Beron (1934) only 25 cases of leprosy were recognized in Bulgaria in the 50 years preceding 1934, including 2 cases seen by him. In his opinion, the number reported should have been greater, since the disease is not sufficiently known among Bulgarian physicians.

BERON, B.

1934. Zur Leprofrage im Bulgaria. Clin. Bulg. No. 4. Abstract in Deutsche med. Wchnschr., 1935, 60, 243. Abstract in Internat. J. Leprosy, 1936, 4, 137.

DENMARK

Population: 3,805,000

Area: 16,575

In a News Item in the JOURNAL (1933) it is stated: "Dr. T. Madsen, writing from Copenhagen, indicates the freedom of Denmark from a leprosy problem by pointing out that in many years there has been only one case there, and that an imported one."

NEWS ITEM.

1933. Leprosy in Denmark. Internat. J. Leprosy, 1, 503.

ESTONIA

Population: 1,134,000

Area: 18,358

Paldrok (1941) states that the number of patients in Estonia was 316 in 1920 but that there were only 113 in 1940.

Parmakson (1938) names four leprosaria in which a total of 158 patients were confined: At Kuuda, (founded in 1896), in Harjumaa in North Estonia, 55 were housed; at Tarvastu, (founded in 1900), in Viljandimaa in Southern Estonia, 56; at Audaku, (founded in 1904), on the island of Oesel, 33; at Muuli, (founded in 1891), at the University of Tartu, 14. The largest focus of leprosy seemed to be Oesel (Saaremaa). The sex ratio of these patients was 1.0 male to 1.9 females. He said: "We have no explanation for this sex incidence, which is quite the reverse of other countries." The ratio of cutaneous to neural cases was 1.0 to 0.64.

PALDROK, A.

1941. Results of specific therapy of leprosy in Estonia during last twenty years. Acta med. Scandinav., 108, 374. Abstract in Internat. J. Leprosy, 1942, 10, 155-156.

PARMAKSON, P.

1938. Statistic reports on leprosy in Estonia. Internat. J. Leprosy, 6, 185-198.

FINLAND

Population: 3,887,217

Area: 134,588

Cedercreutz (1938) states that the number of leprosy cases in Finland had diminished from 95 in 1904 to 19 in 1938. The same author (1933) states that in 1931 there were 34 leprous persons, 16 of whom were confined in the leprosarium at Orivesi. "We are sure that these figures are rather too low, for a number of cases have probably remained undiagnosed." However, "... it appears that leprosy in Finland shows a downward tendency . . ." Of these 34 cases, 7 were cutaneous, 24 neural, and 3 mixed.

CEDERCREUTZ, A.

1933. Leprosy in Finland. Internat. J. Leprosy, 1, 195-199.

1938. La lèpre en Finlande diminue. Read at the Cairo Conference of 1938. Abstract in Internat. J. Leprosy, 6, 426.

FRANCE

Population: 38,000,000

Area: 212,659

Indigenous leprosy is rare in France; most of the cases come from the colonies. According to a News Item in the JOURNAL (1940) there were about 100 cases in Paris, perhaps 50 in Provence and Auvergne, 20 in Marseilles, and "several" in Bordeaux. Some years ago, 18 cases were discovered in Bretagne. The Pavillon de Malte of the Hôpital St. Louis in Paris had 45 patients.

Vigne and Tivollier (1938) report that leprosy is greatly diminishing in Marseilles because of the stoppage of foreign immigration, and the falling off of the arrival of workers from the colonies.

NEWS ITEM.

1940. Lepers in France. *Internat. J. Leprosy*, **8**, 236.

VIGNE, P. and TIVOLLIER, M.

1938. Considérations statistiques, cliniques, et therapeutiques sur les cas de lèpre observés à Marseilles (Services Hospitaliers) depuis la dernière conférence. Read at the Cairo Conference of 1938. Abstract in *Internat. J. Leprosy*, **6**, 452.

GERMANY

Population: 79,375,281

Area: 225,256

Gehr (1940) reports that there were 7 patients in the German Leper Home in Memel, and that from 1909 to 1934, 19 cases were discovered in Germany.

According to an Official Report (1937) at the end of 1936 there were only 8 cases in Germany; 3 in Prussia, 4 in Hamburg, and 1 in Wurtemberg.

GEHR, E.

1940. Die Lepra im Kreise Memel. *Deutsche med. Wchnschr.*, **66**, 715-717.

OFFICIAL REPORT.

1937. La lèpre en Allemagne en 1936. *Reichsgesundheitsbl.*, **23**, 405. Abstract in *Bull. Office internat. d'hyg. pub.*, 1938, **30**, 176.

GREAT BRITAIN

Population: 47,888,958

Area: 94,279

MacLeod (1935) states that it is not possible to estimate the exact number of cases existing in England, and such numbers as 50 to 100, sometimes quoted, are mere guesswork. He attributes this want of precise knowledge to the fact that leprosy is not notifiable in Great Britain. "Cases also are apt to go unrecognized, as the disease is so rare that only the few medical men who have practiced abroad are capable of diagnosing it."

Rogers *et al* (1940) report that at the request of the British Empire Leprosy Relief Association, an inquiry was carried out to ascertain the number of cases in the last 30 years. This information was gathered by sending questionnaires to specialists in all parts of the country. Out of 50 replies, only 14 had seen any cases of the disease. The majority were reported by MacLeod. In all, 87 different cases were reported. Only 40 of these recorded cases were apparently alive. Of these, 16 were non-infectious neural cases (including 1 with tuberculoid lesions); 22 lepromatous, of whom all but 4 were under careful observation and segregation; and 2 doubtful. Apparently only 4 cases were contracted in the British Isles, and all these were seen 11 to 20 years previously. All others were contracted abroad, in some part of the empire where the disease is common.

MACLEOD, J. M. H.

1935. Leprosy in Great Britain. The St. Giles Home for British Lepers. *Internat. J. Leprosy*, **3**, 67-69.

ROGERS, L. *et al.*

1940. Leprosy cases in the British Isles. *Brit. M. J.*, **2**, 7-8.

GREECE

Population: 7,108,814

Area: 50,257

McKinley (1935) cites Copanaris as stating in reply to a questionnaire that there were approximately 600 cases of leprosy in 1933 distributed throughout the country, including the surrounding islands.

A News Item in the JOURNAL (1934) cites Mülzer as stating in the Hamburger Nachrichten that leprosy was once very prevalent in Greece, but now it is not. There are four leprosaria: At Samos, Thios, Athens, and Spina Longa (Crete).

Vlavianos (1939) reports about 300 patients in the leprosy settlement at Spina Longa, Eastern Crete. Many of these patients were in advanced stages.

McKINLEY, E. B.

1935. A Geography of Disease. George Washington University Press, Washington, D. C., ed. 1, p. 330.

MULZER,

1934. Leprosaria in Greece. News Item. Internat. J. Leprosy, 2, 233-234.

VLAVIANOS, G.

1939. Spina Longa, die Insel der Aussätzigen. Deutsche med. Wchnschr., 65, 424-425.

ITALY

Population: 45,801,000

Area: 119,800

Truffi (1937) reports that there were about 300 cases in small groups supposed to have been infected from South and Central America. There are four hospitals for leprosy: At Cagliari, Alberobello, Gênes, and Turin.

TRUFFI, M.

1937. La problême de la lèpre en Italie. Forze Sanit., 6, 1514-1518. Abstract in Bull. Office internat. d'hyg. pub., 1938, 30, 1590.

LATVIA

Population: 1,950,502

Area: 25,402

Gottschalk (1936) reports that the total number of known cases was 199. There are leprosaria with 168 in-patients, at Riga and at Talsen, the other 31 patients having been returned to their homes.

Paldrok (1933) states: "On January 1, 1933 the population was 1,920,069. The number of lepers was 207, or about 0.11 per 1,000. In the Livland part of the country, the most important leprosy focus is in the city of Riga; Mühlgraben, Bolderaa, and Moskauer Vorstadt are the most affected quarters. Following Riga city are the Riga and Wolmar districts. In the Kurland part, the Talsen, Windau, Libau, and Mitau districts are especially affected."

GOTTSCHALK, A.

1936. Contribution à l'étude de la lèpre dans les deux états Baltiques: La Lettonie et l'Esthonie. Thèse de Paris, Vigot Frères, Paris, p. 48. Abstract in Internat. J. Leprosy, 1937, 5, 384-385.

PALDROK, A.

1933. Leprosy in Estonia and Latvia. Internat. J. Leprosy, 1, 201-204.

LITHUANIA

Population: 2,879,070

Area: 22,959

Glusckin (1935) states that there were 214 cases, isolated in hospitals at Cosis, and in Latvia at Riga, and Talsen.

GLUSCKIN, J.

1935. Thèse de Paris, No. 414. Noted in the Brit. M. J., 1935, 2, 513.

NETHERLANDS

*Population: 8,728,569**Area: 12,704*

McKinley (1935) cites De Minister Van Sociale Zaken as stating in May 1934 that there were approximately 100 imported cases of leprosy.

A New Item in the JOURNAL (1935) from the Daily Telegraph of London states: "Leprosy has broken out at Nijmegen, Holland, a rare occurrence in that country."

McKINLEY, E. B.

1935. *A Geography of Disease*. George Washington University Press, Washington, D. C., ed. 1, p. 338.

NEWS ITEM.

1935. Leprosy in Holland. *Internat. J. Leprosy*, 3, 239.

NORWAY

*Population: 2,937,000**Area: 124,556*

Lie (1938) reports only one new case during 1937 and a total of 18 existing in December of that year. During the nineteenth century the disease was widely prevalent. The peak was reached shortly after the middle of the century; in 1856 there were 2,850 known cases, and 1,040 were discovered between 1861 and 1865.

Wefring (1934) states that there were at that time 51 cases, 38 in hospitals, and 13 isolated at home.

LIE, H. P.

1938. The history of leprosy in Norway during the nineteenth century. Read at the Cairo Conference of 1938. Abstract in *Internat. J. Leprosy*, 6, 426-427.

WEFRING,

1934. Les lepreux en Norvege. *Bull. Office internat. d'hyg. pub.*, 26, 1746.

POLAND

*Population: 34,775,698**Area: 150,470*

No record of leprosy in Poland has been found, except that according to a News Item in the JOURNAL (1937) one case, in a woman returned from the Argentine, had recently been reported.

Szymanski (1938) states that at this time no leprosy existed in Poland.

NEWS ITEM.

1937. *Internat. J. Leprosy*, 5.

SZYMANSKI,

1938. Die Lepra in Polen. Report made at International Leprosy Conference at Cairo, 1938. Resumé in *Dermat. Wchnschr.*, 107, 1210-1211.

PORTUGAL

*Population: 7,380,906**Area: 35,582*

The only recent information available is contained in a personal communication from Lewey (1944): "It is not without significance to see a report of no lepers in this country. This is easy to understand when you realize that every patient is sent to the Portuguese island of Madeira. There is a good hospital with all the necessary equipment and trained specialists for approximately 25 patients who seemed to be well taken care of."

LEWEY, F. H.

1944. Personal communication to Perry Burgess.

RUMANIA

Population: 13,291,000

Area: 74,214

Székely (1939) reports: "There are about 4,000 cases of leprosy in Rumania, and there is a tendency to marked increase in certain regions, especially on the frontiers of Bessarabia." There are two leprosaria: Largeance in Bessarabia, an agricultural colony founded in 1916; and Tichilesti, on the banks of the Danube.

Dumitresco (1937) reports the existence of recent cases in the department of Arges, Rumania. An epidemiological inquiry was made concerning 21 cases in 10 rural communities, resulting in the finding of two active foci, one in the village of Merisani, and the other in that of Cicanesti.

DUMITRESCO, N.

1937. Contributions à l'épidémiologie de la lèpre. Bull. Acad. de méd. de Roumanie, 3, 341-347. Internat. J. Leprosy, 6, 580.

SZÉKELY, E.

1939. Contribution à la prophylaxie et au traitement de la lèpre. Enquête en Roumanie. Thèse de la Faculté de Médecine de Lousanne. Abstract in Internat. J. Leprosy, 1941, 9, 246-247.

SPAIN

Population: 26,251,188

Area: 196,607

Montañés (1935) states: "Official censuses have been made at intervals since 1851 The last of these, made in 1932 revealed 883 cases of leprosy. In 1934 I personally collected data on 928 cases." Of these, 486 were hospitalized. The population at that time was approximately 24 millions, giving a known rate of nearly 0.04 per 1,000. He estimates that there are not less than 2,000 cases in Spain, approaching one case per 10,000 persons. The disease is irregularly distributed and most prevalent in four principal areas: (1) Levante, with two leprosaria, the National Leprosarium of Fontilles in Alicante accommodating 350 patients, and the Massdeu Leprosarium in Barcelona accommodating about 50; (2) Andalucia, with one leprosarium, that of San Lazaro in Granada accommodating about 30 patients; (3) Gallego, with one leprosarium, Santiago, accommodating about 20 patients; and (4) Canarias, comprising all the islands of the Canary Archipelago, with a leprosarium in Las Palmas, with 60 patients, though the institution can accommodate 100.

MONTAÑÉS, P.

1935. Leprosy in Spain. Internat. J. Leprosy, 3, 197-200.

SWEDEN

Population: 6,341,303

Area: 173,341

Reenstierna (1938) states: "The amount of leprosy in Sweden has diminished to such an extent that there are at present (1937) only 10 cases left, 7 of the anesthetic, and 3 of the nodular form. Most of the patients are very old. Five of them are at the Järvsö Leprosarium, and the other five are at their homes. The last new case was reported in 1933."

REENSTIERNA, J.

1938. Leprosy in Sweden. Read at the Cairo Conference of 1938. Abstract in Internat. J. Leprosy, 6, 426.

UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS *Population: 192,695,710*
 Area: 8,819,791

Sprawson (1939) who spent September 1938 in the Soviet Union, reports being told by Belnov, Director of the leprosarium in Moscow, that there were 3,000 registered cases of leprosy (compulsory segregation). Their distribution was as follows: Caucasus 700, Turkestan 1,000, Astrakan 600 to 700, Far East (Vladivostock) 100, and Yukutsh 30. The leprosarium at Moscow had 30 beds but all in-patients have been transferred elsewhere, the institution now being used for out-patients.

Stein and Karpichina (1933) report 637 patients admitted to the Krutyje Rutschji Leprosarium at Leningrad between 1894 and 1931. In 76 per cent the disease was cutaneous or mixed; in 24 per cent it was of the neural type. The ratio of males to females was 1.52:1.

SPRAWSON, C.

1939. Leprosy in Soviet Russia. *Leprosy Rev.*, **10**, 106-108

STEIN, A. A. and KARPICHINA, A.

1933. Statistics of leprosy in the Krutyje Rutschji Leprosarium, Leningrad. *Internat. J. Leprosy*, **1**, 309-320.

YUGOSLAVIA

Population: 16,200,000
Area: 95,558

McKinley (1935) cites a report made by Pirc that there were approximately 70 cases in 1932. He does not consider leprosy to be among the important health problems there.

A News Item in the *JOURNAL* (1935) states that 4 cases were reported, presumably in 1934.

McKINLEY, E. B.

1935. *A Geography of Disease*. George Washington University Press, Washington, D. C., ed. 1, p. 375.

NEWS ITEM.

1935. Cases in Belgrade. *Internat. J. Leprosy*, **3**, 374.