

## OBITUARIES

H. P. LIE

1862 - 1945

The world has lost one of its foremost leprologists in the death of Dr. H. P. Lie.

Dr. Lie's youth bore the stamp of Norway's struggle to become independent of Sweden. His motto was "As we are a small nation, we must make our mark by our quality." That Lie put this motto into practice is seen from the excellence of his scientific studies and his professional stature.

In 1893 as a young doctor he was appointed assistant to Dr. D. C. Danielssen whose classical description of leprosy had appeared in 1847. In 1909 the Second International Congress for Leprosy Research was held in Bergen under the patronage of His Majesty King Haakon. The President of the Congress was Armauer Hansen. Lie was appointed Secretary General and was in a large measure responsible for its brilliant success.

On the death of Hansen in 1911, Lie succeeded him as medical head of the Leprosy Service of Norway. He was at the same time medical officer and director of Pleiestiftelsen fer Spedalske nr. 1, and in medical charge of St. Jørgen Leper Hospital.

Lie devoted his life to the anti-leprosy campaign. He elaborated brilliantly the principle inaugurated by Hansen and Danielssen of combating leprosy by the isolation of patients either in hospitals or at home. He waged a prolonged campaign with the authorities to raise the standards of leprosaria to the level of other medical institutions. His task was made more difficult by the lack of understanding on the part of the patients of the measures taken by the community.

In 1856 there were nearly 3,000 persons suffering from leprosy in Norway. Today there are 23. Lie has a great share in the credit for this phenomenal success.

Lie's name as a scientist is well known throughout the world and for many years he was the guiding spirit in leprology. In 1889, with the ophthalmologist, Dr. Lyder Brothen, he published his "Lepros des Auges." In this work he gives an excellent account of the pathological changes in the cornea, iris, and ciliary body of the eyes of leprosy patients. His principal work, "Lepros in Rückenmark und den peripheren Nerven" (an academic treatise) was

published in 1904. This treatise describes certain leprosy processes in the peripheral nerves and central ganglia and shows the changes in the central nervous system to be of a degenerative character.

In other fields of medicine, Lie left his mark. He was a distinguished student of pathological anatomy. He participated with great keenness in medical congresses. He was a member of many foreign medical societies and of the Editorial Board of the International Leprosy Association and of the INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF LEPROSY. He made many contributions to the JOURNAL in recent years. He was also an associate editor of Acta-Dermato-Venerologica from its founding. He was at one time vice-president of the Bergen Museum and president of the Society for the Promotion of Science.

Lie followed closely the important advances in medicine. He possessed to a rare degree a critical sense, and he was, therefore, better qualified than most to select whatever was valuable in the new and to introduce it into Norway. He was the first in Norway to give injections of Salvarsan. Early in his career he established at Pleiestiftelsen fer Spedalske nr. 1 a serological laboratory in which he carried out examinations for diphtheria bacilli, Widal's reaction for typhoid fever, etc. The functions of this laboratory were taken over by Gade's Institute when it was founded.

Lie was a man of sterling character with outstanding gifts which put him as a matter of course in the first ranks of medical men. His numerous scientific works are characterized by great precision and honesty. With his interest in all that was new, he combined a very critical judgment. As a man and a leader of men, he was extraordinarily friendly and helpful, but he knew also how to make himself respected.

H. P. Lie died on December 17, 1945, the day before his 83rd birthday. With his death, Norway has lost one of her greatest men of medicine.

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Service, Norway