

NEWS ITEMS

Africa, Belgian Congo: The Acting Editor has received from Dr. Glen W. Tuttle, A.B., F.M.S., Sona Bata, a note dated March 6th, 1947, acknowledging request for scientific articles, news notes, and abstracts for the Journal. Dr. Tuttle has circulated the request to 12 of the Mission physicians who supervise colonies for leprosy. Dr. Tuttle states that after a couple of months they anticipate the arrival of a newly appointed Chief Medical Officer for the colony who should be prepared to clarify the government's post-war program for the treatment of our 100,000 or more leprosy patients.

Africa, Kapanga Kasai: Dr. Kellersberger has called the attention of the Editor to an error in information regarding this area in the news notes in Volume 14. In six of the nine stations, medical missionaries are in residence. These physicians also supervise adjacent colonies as well. All of the stations have trained nurses in residence.

Africa, Liberia: Dr. J. A. Doull, Acting Editor of the Journal, visited the Ganta Mission Leprosy Colony on February 5th, 1947. The Colony is located about a mile from the School and other buildings of the Mission. Approximately 200 patients live in the Colony with their families, in 88 native huts of clay and thatch construction. There is a small dispensary at the Colony in a modern brick building built by the Mission. The Mission is directed by Dr. George W. Harley with the able assistance of Mrs. Harley, Mr. and Mrs. Cofield, Miss Black, and Miss Longstaff.

Africa, Nigeria: With the full consent of the Nigerian Government a Leprosy Research Unit is being established at the Uzuakoli Leper Settlement, Nigeria, by the British Empire Leprosy Relief Association. Dr. T. F. Davey will be the head of this unit, and will be assisted by a European and African staff. Dr. Davey has for many years been the Medical Superintendent at Uzuakoli and has made a number of useful contributions both to the nature of leprosy and its epidemiology and control. His appointment as a full time research worker, with adequate assistance, will make it possible for him to study specially the peculiarities of leprosy as found in West Africa. The Research Unit should be of great benefit not only to leprosy work in Nigeria, but also in other parts of Africa.

India, Madras: A scheme has been placed before the Government which envisages the organization of one complete District Unit consisting of a Sanatorium for adults and children, a District Leprosy Headquarters, a District Survey Unit with adequate personnel for a survey party. This District Leprosy Organization is proposed for the North Arcot District. The Leprosy Sanatorium will be built, organized and managed by the Mission to Lepers in cooperation with the Christian Medical College, Vellore. The British Mission to Lepers have guaranteed money for the Children's Sanatorium, and the American Mission to Lepers, Mid-West Branch, Chicago, have guaranteed money for the building of the Adults Sanatorium. The first Rural Leprosy Unit in connection with the District Leprosy Organization is now being built 15 miles from Vellore and in the midst of a highly endemic centre. The Kasturba Gandhi Leprosy Home for women and chil-

dren is almost completed in the South Arcot District, and there is a scheme under way for the building of another leprosy sanatorium for South Arcot. The National Government in the Presidency of Madras is acutely aware of the seriousness of the leprosy situation and has continued to show its interest in encouraging leprosy work.

—R. G. COCHRANE

Philippine Islands: The lamentable plight of the patients in the Central Luzon Leprosarium at Novaliches, Rizal, came to light when a newspaper reporter accompanying one of the daughters of the late President Manuel Quezon made a visit to that institution last February. The patients were found to be in rags, and were herded together in greatest promiscuity in a few old cottages. The food furnished to them was found to be insufficient, and maltreatment on the part of some of the personnel was alleged.

The cabinet of President Manuel Roxas ordered an investigation, and a committee consisting of Drs. B. de Vera, R. Manalang, and F. Velasco was appointed for this purpose.

After a prompt survey, the committee found that in view of the high cost of living, the funds available were insufficient to operate the leprosarium properly. It is rumored that some changes in the personnel will follow.

President Roxas gave full authority to Secretary of Health and Public Welfare Antonio Villarama to handle the situation.

South America, Argentina: The *Revista Argentina de Dermatosifilologia*, in its issue for the second half of 1946, carries a news item to the effect that the serious water problem at the distant Hospital-Colony of "Gral. Rodriguez" (F.C.O.) which is the largest in Argentina, with its 600 patients and 200 employees, has been definitely solved. A prominent physician donated the necessary funds to provide sufficient water for all.

In a mimeographed journal published by the patients, relief from a plague of rats which have invaded the colony in huge numbers was requested. The inmates also wanted the services of a biochemist and hoped that the newer drugs such as promin and solu-thiazamid will soon be made available to them. In another recent issue of the same Journal, the poor quality of the diet and lack of all kinds of medicine was the subject of a vigorous complaint.

South America, Venezuela: Dr. J. A. Doull, Acting Editor of the Journal, and Colonel Wesley C. Cox, Medical Corps, United States Army, visited the Leprosarium at La Guiara on January 25th, 1947. They were escorted through the institution by Dr. Jacinto Convit, Chief of the Leprosy Division of the Venezuela Department of Health and a former fellow of the American Leprosy Foundation. Approximately one hundred patients were under treatment with sulfone drugs.