

PROPOSAL FOR AMENDMENT

TO AMEND THE BY-LAWS OF THE ASSOCIATION TO PERMIT
PUBLICATION OF ARTICLES IN SPANISH

The by-laws of the International Leprosy Association provide that the languages to be used in the JOURNAL shall be English, French and German. Since they were adopted, in 1931, leprosy work in Latin-language countries has increased greatly, and so has the number of members of the Association from those countries. The fact that articles written in Spanish—the most widely used of the languages referred to—can be published only in translation is seen as an inhibitory factor as regards the submission of manuscripts.

It was intended to include in the agenda of the general meeting of the Association held in Havana on April 11, 1948, a proposal that the by-laws be amended to provide that Spanish be adopted as one of the official languages, but that was not done. The by-laws provide that amendments may be made by majority vote either at a general meeting or by mail. To utilize the latter alternative this proposal is hereby presented to the members of the Association, all of whom receive the JOURNAL. Each member is requested to communicate his approval or disapproval to the undersigned in London.

It is not proposed that the Portuguese language be also used because of greater difficulties from the editorial and publication aspects of the matter, and also because fewer non-Latin readers would profit by it. It is intended, if this proposal is approved, that the summaries of articles in Spanish shall be duplicated in English translation. Arrangements have been made with Dr. Fred L. Soper, Director of the Pan-American Sanitary Bureau in Washington, D. C., to have Spanish material read critically by personnel of that organization.

While it is appreciated that many readers of the JOURNAL are not familiar with Spanish, it is nevertheless believed that the proposed change will materially increase its usefulness among a large element of the present membership of the Association and in other respects.

E. MUIR,
General Secretary.