

THE INTERNATIONAL LEPROSY ASSOCIATION MINUTES OF THE ASSOCIATION MEETING AT HAVANA

A general meeting of the Association was held on Sunday, April 11, 1948, at the "Valdes Rodriguez" School, Havana, at 1:30 p.m., immediately after the last plenary session of the Fifth International Leprosy Congress. The meeting was presided over by Dr. H. W. Wade, the President, and was attended by nearly all the members of the Association attending the Congress. This was the third general meeting of the Association since its inauguration in Manila in 1931; the previous meetings were held during the Cairo Congress in 1938 and at the time of the Second Pan-American Congress at Rio de Janeiro in October, 1946.

The Chairman referred to members of the Association who had died since the last Congress, and particularly to Dr. Faget, whose distinguished work in leprosy, especially as the originator of sulphone therapy, is so well known.

The General Secretary-Treasurer, Dr Ernest Muir, then read his reports.

REPORT OF GENERAL SECRETARY

The chief object of the Association is to coordinate leprosy work throughout the world. It has two ways of doing this: publication of the INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF LEPROSY, and arranging for international congresses. During the recent war the activities of the Association were necessarily at a standstill although, through the generosity of the Leonard Wood Memorial, a single yearly number of the JOURNAL was published and supplied to the members.

There are at the present moment 164 members of the Association enrolled for 1948. In addition there are 124 institutions, offices, and individuals not yet members, who are receiving the JOURNAL on a subscription basis, most of them paid for by the American Mission to Lepers on behalf of mission institutions where leprosy work is being done.

A third way has been suggested in which the Association might extend its activities, namely, by entering into affiliation with scientific and other societies engaged in the fight against leprosy. The Association might at the same time seek recognition by the World Health Organization. In this way the societies

referred to might be strengthened and encouraged, and the Association would, at the same time, increase in strength and usefulness. Motions will be put before the meeting later on to implement this suggestion.

REPORT OF THE TREASURER

The chief expenditure of the International Leprosy Association is in connection with the publication of the INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF LEPROSY, but the cost of this publication is not by any means met by the members' subscriptions. Last year there were 299 members who paid the annual Association fee, and 69 institutions subscribed for the JOURNAL. The total cost of publication was about \$10,000. Since 750 copies of each issue were printed, this works out at about \$13 per volume. Thus only 20 per cent of the cost was covered by subscriptions; the remaining 80 per cent was met by the Leonard Wood Memorial. The time occupied by the Editor in this work does not enter this computation. From its inception Dr. Wade set a high standard for the JOURNAL. During the war Dr. Doull acted as Editor, and he and the Assistant Editor, Dr. Bancroft, maintained that high standard. We are glad that Dr. Wade has now been able to take over the editorship once more.

Statement of Receipts and Payments for the year 1947

1946 Dec. 31

Balance brought down..	£294.	6.	5.	By Postage and		
To Membership dues...	110.	2.	7.	Telegrams...	£ 14.	19. 4.
To Subscriptions	34.	11.	3.	By Printing, Sta-		
To Proceeds of sale of				tionery and		
Leprosy Atlas ..	8.	0.	0.	Sundries	13.	0.
				Excess of receipts		
				over payments		
				(Balance in bank)	£431.	7. 11.
	£447.	0.	3.		£447.	0. 3.

The Souza-Araujo Fund.—Dr. H. C. de Souza-Araujo, of Rio de Janeiro, has laid a foundation for what he hopes may become an endowment for the Association. It is not intended that this should be used for current expenses; it is to be held in reserve and accumulated so that in time the Association may be able to provide for special activities. To that end he has recently had reprinted an edition of the Atlas of Danielssen and Boeck, and has remitted for the Association's account all receipts from its sales. At the Rio de Janeiro conference he turned over the

amount of \$600 for this fund, and a total of about \$50 has been remitted since then.

These reports were unanimously accepted.

REPORT OF THE EDITOR

Dr. Wade, as Editor of the JOURNAL, stated that for the period between his last report (at Cairo) and the outbreak of the war in the Pacific, no detailed analysis of accomplishments had been made. Beginning in 1942 and continuing through 1946 the JOURNAL had been kept alive by means of single annual issues as a contribution by the Leonard Wood Memorial; in 1947 regular quarterly publication at the prewar price of subscription was resumed. Dr. Doull has analyzed, in the last issue of 1947, what was published during that period.

At the beginning of the present year Dr. Wade resumed the editorship under a temporary handicap, one feature of which was a decided shortage of suitable material, especially of original articles. It was assumed that that condition was temporary, due to the withholding of papers for the present Congress. Some of those which have been presented there will appear in future issues.*

Mention was made of the fact that the corps of collaborating Contributing Editors had become much depleted during recent years, and that an effort was being made to rehabilitate that group. Without the cooperation of interested and active persons in different countries, the abstract section cannot adequately represent leprosy articles published throughout the world; the Editor himself can no longer carry as much of that burden as in the past.

This report was accepted. *Addendum*.—It was intended to take up the matter of the official language of the Journal, and to suggest change of the by-laws to permit the use of Spanish. That proposal will be put forward by other means provided by the Association rules.

It was also intended to express the Editor's appreciation of the fact that the Leonard Wood Memorial, which having alone

*Consideration will be given to those of widest general interest and those which, in certain fields, are representative of differing points of view (e.g. regarding sulfones and chaulmoogra in therapy, and regarding the South American and opposition views on classification). Since only a limited number can be so used, the fact that certain ones will be selected is not to be construed as an indication of superiority over others not used—EDITOR.

produced the JOURNAL through the war period had necessarily exercised full control of it, has now returned it to the pre-war basis. The only difference is that, because its actual publication is now carried on in the United States instead of the Philippines, the Memorial will serve as its Fiscal Agent. In recognition of the overwhelming proportion of the cost which its subsidy represents, the fact that publication is aided by the Memorial will hereafter appear on the front cover instead of inside as in the past.

It was intended, finally, to remind the members that, so long as the present restrictions on remittances from England to the United States are in force, remittances for renewals should so far as possible be made directly to the Publication Office in New Orleans and not, as normally, to the Association office in London, where such remittances become frozen. Some of the Association's funds, which normally would be remitted periodically to the JOURNAL, were made available to it last year by a book transfer in the accounts of the Association in London and the Memorial in New York, of the money held by the latter for the Souza-Araujo fund.

LEONARD WOOD MEMORIAL

Dr. Robert Cochrane moved the following resolution, which was passed by acclamation.

This Association places on record its sincere and grateful thanks for the contributions which the Leonard Wood Memorial (American Leprosy Foundation) has made to the cause of leprosy ever since the inauguration of the International Leprosy Association. Without its generous aid it would have been impossible to organize the Association or publish the JOURNAL. If it had not been for the continued financial help of the Memorial and the work of Dr. Doull and Dr. Bancroft and her staff, publication would have ceased during World War II. The help, advice and financial aid of the Memorial has made this Congress possible.

Our thanks are extended to Mrs. Burgess and the Photography Committee of the Memorial for the excellent contribution which has been made in clinical photography. The advice given and the promise that the Committee will help workers in all countries in this most important field are deeply appreciated.

CHANGES OF THE CONSTITUTION

The meeting next considered three resolutions, each requiring a change in the Constitution of the Association.

MEMBERSHIP OF ASSOCIATION

Dr. Gordon Ryrie proposed that an amendment be made to the constitution in order that in exceptional cases persons who are without medical degrees or other scientific qualifications, but who have rendered signal service to the Association, may be included in regular membership. Certain members of the Association had expressed the opinion that Mr. Perry Burgess, President of the Leonard Wood Memorial, who has rendered exceptional service to the Association since its inception, especially in connection with support of the publication of the *INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF LEPROSY*, should be made a full member.

The part of Section 4 of the constitution which bears on this matter reads as follows: "*Regular Membership* shall be limited to persons with recognized medical degrees, and those with other scientific qualifications who are, or have been, actively connected with leprosy work." Dr Ryrie moved that this sentence be amended to read as follows:

Regular Membership shall be limited to persons with recognized medical degrees, those with other scientific qualifications who are or have been actively connected with leprosy work, and, in exceptional cases, others who have rendered signal service to the Association.

Dr. Ryrie also referred to the unique services of Mrs. Perry Burgess in her work for the Association in photography and other matters. He then moved that under this provision Mr. and Mrs. Perry Burgess be declared regular members of the Association.

These motions were duly seconded and carried by acclamation.

AFFILIATION WITH OTHER BODIES

The Chairman offered the following explanatory remarks. In July, 1947 the General Secretary received from the Headquarters Office, Interim Commission, World Health Organization, a circular questionnaire which sought information concerning "international non-government organizations which are active in the fields of medicine and public health." In forwarding his reply he inquired as to what particular steps might be taken "to bring this Association under the aegis of the World Health Organization"; and a similar inquiry was addressed to Dr. James A. Doull, Chief, Office of International Health Relations, U. S. P. H. S., saying that the matter would be taken up at the present meeting. The following emerged from the subsequent correspondence.

The purpose of the proposal to be made is to secure recognition, by the W. H. O., of the Association as its official consulting body regarding leprosy problems. No definitive action can be taken until the W. H. O. is formed and its Assembly meets. In the meantime, however, the Interim Committee can study any such proposal and make recommendations. It has been suggested that the Association: (a) should seek an invitation by the Interim Committee to send a representation to the first Assembly; (b) should seek "in as unobtrusive a way as will be effective" to insure that the delegates of the various governments to W. H. O. are familiar with the Association and its purposes; and (c) should make itself more widely known, and stronger, by means of affiliations with other voluntary groups interested in leprosy.

It was pointed out that the Association has no constituent branches (apart from its Sections, neither of which has as yet functioned as a separate unit), and that it would be in a stronger position if there were affiliated organizations in different countries. Mention was made of the Missions to Lepers (British and American), the British Empire Leprosy Relief Association, the Leonard Wood Memorial, and organizations existent in South America such as the societies of leprologists in Brazil and the organizations for social aid there and in Argentina. Details of the possible form or forms of affiliation have not been worked out, pending approval of the general proposition.

In this connection there had been received during the present Congress a "proposition" signed by a single member that a Section for Social Assistance of the Association itself should be created. Since it bore no indication of how that might be done within the framework of the Association's constitution, nor any proposal for its amendment, and because the present proposal was to be considered, this proposal was not being presented to this meeting.

The following two-part resolution was moved, seconded and adopted.

(1) Whereas it appears that there may be mutual advantage in affiliation of the International Leprosy Association and various societies and organizations engaged in antileprosy work, it is resolved that the following paragraph be added to the constitution of the Association:

9A. *Affiliated Organizations.*—The Association shall seek affiliations of scientific and other societies and organizations working in leprosy which are approved by the Council.

(2) Resolved that it is advisable to establish relations with the World Health Organization, and that the President and General Secretary be

empowered to get in touch with representatives of the World Health Organization with suggestions: (a) that the International Leprosy Association be recognized by the World Health Organization as its advisory body regarding leprosy, and (b) that the Interim Commission should invite the International Leprosy Association to send a representative to the first meeting of the Assembly.

ASSUMPTION OF OFFICE

The following resolution was put to the meeting and, after being seconded, was carried unanimously.

Whereas Section 5(a) of the constitution of the Association, which provides for the election of the general officers and councillors, does not specifically define their tenure of office, and

Whereas it would obviously make for difficulties if, immediately upon election during a given meeting, new general officers, unfamiliar with the details of events of the past term of office, should take the place of outgoing officers, be it

Resolved that Article 5 (a) of the constitution be amended to provide that newly elected general officers of the Association shall assume office after the termination of the sessions and functions of the leprosy congress or Association meeting at which they were elected.

TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT CONGRESS

During the Congress week Dr. Dharmendra, official delegate of India, had received and presented the following cablegram:

Please invite International Leprosy Association on behalf of the Government of India to hold its next Congress in India in 1953. Invitation should be announced at appropriate time before current session concludes. HEALTHIND.

Consideration of this invitation by the Association had been forestalled because of action by the Congress as a whole, in its final plenary session, on a verbal invitation presented to it on behalf of the Government of Spain by the Spanish delegation. The General Secretary was instructed to write to the Minister of Public Health, New Delhi, expressing appreciation of the invitation and informing him of the action taken by the Congress.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND COUNCIL

The meeting then proceeded, under By-Law 2, to the election of general officers and councillors of the Association, and the officers and councillors of the Sections. The usual term of office is five years and elections should have been held in 1943. This was rendered impossible by the exigencies of war.

President and Secretary-Treasurer

Dr. Fernandez presented the following motion: That Dr. Wade be confirmed as President of the Association, and that

Dr. Muir be re-elected as its General Secretary-Treasurer. This motion was approved without formal seconding.

General Councillors

The membership of the General Council of the Association and of the officers and councillors of its Sections having been greatly depleted in the ten years since the last general meeting because of deaths, retirements from active work, and transfers of station, the Councillors present at the Congress had given careful thought to the rehabilitation of these bodies, with due consideration to regional distribution of active leprosy workers, and had prepared the following slate of nominations.

The offices of Vice-Presidents of the Association are filled automatically by those elected as Section Chairman, and two other *ex-officio* positions on the General Council are similarly filled by the Secretary-Treasurers of the Sections; these latter two officers are also, *ex-officio*, Associate Editors of the INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF LEPROSY. The following General Councillors were elected.

Dr. Pedro Balina, *ex-officio*.

Dr. Dharmendra, *ex-officio*.

Dr. R. Chaussinand, *ex-officio*.

Dr. R. Cochrane, *ex-officio*.

Dr. Ernani Agricola, of Brazil.

Dr. C. J. Austin, of Fiji (previously on the Council of the Eastern Section).

Dr. M. Dalgamouni, of Egypt.

Dr. A. R. Davison, of the Union of South Africa.

Dr. A. Dubois, of Belgium and the Belgian Congo.

Dr. F. A. Johansen, of the United States of America.

Dr. Fernando Latapi, of Mexico.

Dr. Alberto Oteiza Setien, of Cuba (re-election).

Dr. J. N. Rodriguez, of the Philippines (re-election).

Dr. Gordon Ryrie, of England (re-election).

Section Officials, Western Section

Chairman: Dr. Pedro Balina, of Argentina (re-election)

Vice-Chairman: Dr. H. C. de Souza-Araujo, of Brazil (re-election)

Secretary-Treasurer: Dr. R. Chaussinand, of France

Councillors: Dr. Felix Contreras Duenas, of Spain

Dr. John Lowe, of Nigeria (transfer)

Dr. Martin Vegas, of Venezuela

Section Officials, Eastern Section

Chairman: Dr. Dharmendra, of India
Vice-Chairman: Dr. N. D. Fraser, of China
Secretary-Treasurer: Dr. R. G. Cochrane, of India
Councillors: Dr. S. N. Chatterjee, of India
Dr. C. B. Lara, of the Philippines

Duly seconded, this slate was approved without change and the persons named therein were declared elected.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

Immediately after the General Meeting of the Association, at a meeting of the newly elected Officers and Councillors present, Dr. H. W. Wade was re-elected as Editor of the INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF LEPROSY.

