

NEWS AND NOTES

Information concerning institutions, organizations, and individuals connected with leprosy work, scientific or other meetings, legislative enactments and other matters of interest.

✓ THE INTERNATIONAL LEPROSY ASSOCIATION AND THE UNITED NATIONS

"For the first time," says the *Chronicle of the World Health Organization*, "the term 'World' appears in the title of an inter-governmental organization." In a report which appears in the editorial section of this issue are related briefly the development of that organization, the holding of its First Assembly last summer (June 24 to July 24), and the measures which it adopted. One of the decisions was that the WHO should collaborate, not only with official agencies, but also with "non-governmental groups which contribute to the advancement of health," especially those of international character. Procedures were laid down to be followed by such organizations which might desire to enter into such affiliation.

At the meeting of the International Leprosy Association held in Havana last April, at the time of the International Congress, the General Secretary reported that the Interim Commission of the WHO had made inquiry about the Association, and that in turn he had made inquiry regarding the possibilities of affiliation of the Association with the WHO. The meeting approved the proposal that its officers should negotiate with the WHO with a view to securing recognition of the Association as its advisory body in the field of leprosy.

Precisely what action was taken to forward the proposal of affiliation of the Association has not been learned but it happens that Dr. J. A. Doull was an alternate delegate of the United States in the First Assembly. Presumably as a result of his interest the provisional agenda of the First Assembly contained, under the general heading of "Special Endemic Diseases," a section on leprosy which pointed out the international actions taken in the past and proposed that: "The WHO should consider continuing the international work on leprosy, including investigations on epidemiology, treatment and prophylaxis, in co-operation with the International Leprosy Association and other organizations." On November 2, 1948, Dr. Brock Chisholm, Director General of the WHO, notified the Association that,

after considering the report of the Standing Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations, the Executive Board of the WHO had decided to include the International Leprosy Association among the organizations to be brought into official relationship with it. It appears unlikely that the WHO will take any definite action with respect to leprosy. In considering what its immediate fields of activity should be the Interim Commission, according to its *Chronicle*, had given thought to the fact that there are many diseases which are scourges in various countries, leprosy among them, and also to the experience of the Health Organization of the League of Nations that "certain diseases, such as cancer and leprosy, do not lead themselves easily to international action." Out of an overwhelming list of possible fields of activity the Interim Commission had given top priority, as most important and urgent, to malaria, tuberculosis and venereal diseases, and to maternal and child health; the Assembly concurred but added environmental hygiene (sanitary engineering) and nutrition to the list of the Organization's activities for the next few years. For each of these six fields an expert committee and a section in the secretariat are to be set up.

Regarding leprosy, we are informed, the only action taken was to assign to the secretariat (Epidemiological Section) the task of collecting, compiling and distributing statistics on the disease.

DR. JAMES ANGUS DOULL BECOMES MEDICAL DIRECTOR
OF THE LEONARD WOOD MEMORIAL

Since the organization of the medical activities of the Leonard Wood Memorial on January 1, 1931, the medical director of the organization has been Dr. H. W. Wade, resident at the Culion Leper Colony in the Philippines, where his principal technical work with the Memorial has been as its pathologist. Previously, after several years in Manila as bacteriologist-pathologist of the Bureau of Science and later as head of the Department of Pathology and Bacteriology of the College of Medicine and Surgery, University of the Philippines, he had served (1922-1931) as chief pathologist in the Philippine Health Service organization at Culion. Having set up the INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF LEPROSY in 1933, he served as its editor until the outbreak of the war in the Pacific, when he was caught at Culion and was without communication with the outside world until 1945. Serious illness suffered after the liberation of the Philippines delayed his return to the United States until 1947.

In the meantime the general situation in the field of leprosy had changed radically, with greatly increased emphasis on chemotherapy because of the advent of the sulfones, and on research in that field because of the hope of acquiring still more valuable drugs or methods. The Memorial authorities, recognizing that expansion of activity in that and other fields was essential, became convinced of the necessity that its medical director should have his permanent headquarters in the United States. It was physically impossible for Dr. Wade to add important new duties to his previous regular activities; and he was strongly of the opinion that those activities should not be abandoned, and that they could most effectively be carried forward at Culion in continued contact with that large leprosy institution and with leprosy patients. Furthermore, the Memorial has invested large sums at that colony in a modern laboratory building with considerable equipment, in residences for both senior and junior personnel, and in various other ways. Dr. Wade therefore decided, and the Memorial's medical board agreed, that since many new activities were to be developed which would require direction from the United States he would withdraw from the position of medical director and return to Culion to carry on with his other functions.

The president of the Memorial was thereupon authorized to search for another man to fill the position of medical director. A search which lasted for several months finally resulted in Dr. James A. Doull being detailed on loan from the U. S. Public Health Service by the Federal Security Agency Administrator Oscar Ewing to fill that position.

It is the opinion of all who are familiar with Dr. Doull's ability and experience, as well as with his long acquaintance with the problems of leprosy, that the appointment is an ideal one. He was educated at Dalhousie University in Canada, at Cambridge University in England, and at Johns Hopkins in the United States. From 1921 to 1930 he was an associate professor at Johns Hopkins, and from then until 1943 he was professor of hygiene and public health at Western Reserve University, in Cleveland. In the meantime he had two interludes as visiting professor abroad, one at the University of Rio de Janeiro in 1926, and one representing Columbia at Puerto Rico in 1941. He has been a member of the Memorial's Advisory Medical Board for many years, and in 1933 spent several months in the Philippines inaugurating its epidemiological work there, with which he has continued to maintain close contact. Since 1943 he

has been with the U. S. Public Health Service, since 1945 heading its Office of International Health Relations with rank of Medical Director. Besides other assignments, including that of special mission officer with the Lend-Lease Administration, he served as alternate delegate to the first World Health Assembly, held this summer in Geneva.

He assumed his new connection with the Leonard Wood Memorial on November 1, 1948. He will continue to have his office in Washington, in the Federal Security Agency building, and plans to work in close relationship with the U.S.P.H.S. in its leprosy control work.—[In large part from an announcement of Mr. Perry Burgess, President, Leonard Wood Memorial, and a press release by the Federal Security Agency, Washington, D. C.]

↓
ACTIVITIES OF THE BRITISH EMPIRE LEPROSY
RELIEF ASSOCIATION

Leprosy being almost unknown in Great Britain itself, little thought has been given to it there as a problem within the British Empire. The British Empire Leprosy Relief Association has been endeavoring to remedy this situation by the publication of literature and the exhibition of films. In 1947 a touring exhibition, called "Who Walk Alone" from Mr. Perry Burgess' famous book, was organized with the intention that it would be shown in all the important cities of Great Britain in the course of two or three years. By the end of that year it had been shown in London, Edinburgh and Birmingham with great success; some 15,000 people had visited it, and a gross sum of £1,200 had been raised.

On one occasion, through the courtesy of Mr. J. Arthur Rank, a film première was given for the benefit of the Association. Their Royal Highnesses the Duke and Duchess of Gloucester graciously attended the affair and received representatives of the Association. Its funds benefited by about £2,500.

One of the purposes of B.E.L.R.A. is to interest the public in the child victims of leprosy, and to arrange for their adoption by individuals. H.R.H. Princess Elizabeth has shown particular interest in these little sufferers, and after visiting South Africa she adopted one of them, as have also their Majesties the King and Queen, and Their Royal Highnesses the Duke and Duchess of Gloucester.

In the scientific field, the Association now supports a leprosy research center at Uzuakoli, in S.E. Nigeria, in the area where

Dr. T. F. Davey's well-known epidemiological and control scheme has been in operation. Dr. John Lowe, for many years a leprosy research worker in India, is the director. In connection with the inauguration of this new work a visit to Nigeria was made by Dr. Gordon A. Ryrie, Medical Secretary of the Association since early in 1947. E. MUIR.

✓ MEXICAN ANTILEPROSY ASSOCIATION

The Asociación Mexicana de Acción Contra la Lepra was organized legally on March 16, 1948, in Mexico City. This organization is a private one the purpose of which is to collaborate in the study of leprosy in all its aspects and in the campaign against the disease in the Republic of Mexico.

Originally founded by 40 persons, it had at the end of the first year 150 members, among whom there are leprologists, dermatologists, nurses, social workers, and people from various other walks of life. There is a Board of Directors composed of five members, it being provided that the president and the vice-president shall be leprologist doctors. The present directors are: Dr. Fernando Latapí, president; Dr. Ernesto Escalona, vice president; Lic. Raúl Cervantes Ahumada, secretary; Mrs. María Elena S. de Pallares, assistant secretary; and Mr. Alfredo Soto, treasurer. Dr. Jesús González Urueña, founder of the official antileprosy campaign in 1930, is honorary president.

The members are grouped into different committees: (1) Medical Assistance, concerned with the attention given to patients and the finding of means to provide for sulfone treatment of indigents; (2) Blood Bank, cooperating in the giving of blood transfusions, sometimes needed in advanced cases; (3) Child Welfare, which looks after leprous children and normal children who are in danger of infection, and which has established a first small preventorium and expects soon to open a second one; and (4) Study and Instruction, which encourages leprosy research and the exchange of scientific information within the country and abroad. The Association proposes to organize medical meetings, study courses, and conferences, and in cooperation with the Patronato de Guadalajara it is organizing the First Mexican Congress of Leprosy.

In Mexico leprosy is a serious problem. The Mexican Association hopes to be able to unite all private efforts, in both the scientific and social fields, in order ultimately to eradicate the disease from the country. In the meantime, it plans to give whole-hearted attention to the patients, who are the victims of

the most anachronistic prejudice and injustice in the whole history of medicine.

—FERNANDO LATAPI.

√ FOURTH ARGENTINE LEPROSY MEETING PLANNED

The Asociación Argentina de Dermatología y Sifilología, according to a letter to Dr. E. Muir from Prof. P. Baliña who was one of the founding members (1907) and the first secretary—which organization has 150 active members and branches in Rosario and Córdoba—has already sponsored three successful meetings of leprologists and is planning a fourth one for 1949. Always held in different parts of the country, the next one will be in Corrientes. It is expected that it will serve as a valuable preliminary for the Third Panamerican Conference, which is to be held in Buenos Aires in 1950.

Dr. Baliña also tells of the formation of a new scientific group, the Colegio Ibero-Latino-Americano de Dermatología, the purpose of which is to hold annual meetings in the different Spanish—and Portuguese-speaking countries. This organization, it appears, resulted from a recent visit of some weeks duration by several distinguished Spanish leprologists in Argentina and Brazil. The Iberoamerican dermatologists, including members from Portugal and probably other Latin countries as France and Italy, are to meet in Rio de Janeiro in 1949. Prof. José Gay Prieto, of Madrid, is the president of this new group, and Prof. Baliña himself—retired from active work—is Honorary President. Among these dermatologists there are numerous leprologists, and the subject of leprosy will be a part of the program of the projected meeting. "I am glad to think," Prof. Dr. Baliña adds, "that in the Western Section of the International Leprosy Association the prospects of active and productive life are justifiably encouraging."

√ A NEW COLONY IN ARGENTINA

The public health service of this country, in pursuance of its projected plan of constructions, has inaugurated a new sanatorium colony for leprosy patients in Diamante, Entre Ríos. Among other functionaries of the service, Dr. Fernando J. Andrés, general secretary of the medical service, and Dr. Leonidas Llanos, director of dermatology, were present at the inauguration. The establishment has been constructed on a site of 120 hectares. The principal plant has three pavilions: one for direction and administration, with houses for the director, the manager and the doctors; another for the staff, with a

chapel for the chaplain; and the third for the sisters of mercy, besides other installations. The different medical services have everything necessary for the care and treatment of patients. Buildings for the breeding of fowl, pigs and other domestic animals have been provided. Gardens and a park surround the establishment, which can be reached by a paved road that connects it with Paraná. —G. BASOMBRIÓ.

PATRONATO DE LEPROSOS INTERNACIONAL

As reported in a recent publication of the Patronato de Leprosos de la Republica Argentina [see abstract, p. 496 of this issue], the Primera Conferencia de Asistencia Social de la Lepra, held in Buenos Aires in 1939, approved a plan for the Casa Central of that organization, the president of which is Sra. Hersilia Casares de Blaquier, to arrange an international conference of persons interested in that field. The next step was taken when:

In the City of Buenos Aires . . . on the 23rd day of May, 1944 . . . the active members of the Patronato de Leprosos de la Republica Argentina, in compliance with Article 5 of its constitution, resolved to promote the creation of an international organization for the purpose of coordinating the efforts which are being exerted in different nations into a concerted action and to obtain the funds which may be necessary for the fulfillment of these purposes.

The Patronato Internacional, it is stated, was projected as a stable organization which should serve as a basis of approach among the different nations, and in which all institutions of philanthropic nature which are concerned with the fight against leprosy and with the aiding of the victims of this disease and their families might participate. Its functions would include the coordination of the efforts to combat leprosy which are being made by the different governments, by institutions of scientific investigation and by those of beneficent character, and by physicians specializing in this field.

The specific objectives are listed, in part, as follows: to promote the interchange of scientific missions; to establish fellowships; to organize prize contests for scientific works; to facilitate and stimulate scientific investigations and the preparation of drugs; to protect healthy children of leprosy parents from infection by segregating them; to promote the holding of international leprosy congresses to be attended by representatives of all affiliated institutions and of the governments of the countries to which they belong; and to promote the exchange of publications for the diffusion of scientific and educational information.

The resources of the organization would derive from voluntary contributions of the Argentine Patronato and of affiliated institutions, from donations and legacies received, from income from its own properties, and from subsidies of the Argentina government and grants allowed by the governments of the nations of the affiliated institutions.

The constitution and by-laws of the organization are not given nor is any statement found regarding the plan for internal organization or operation. From another source, however, the following two articles supposedly of the proposed statutes have been supplied:

Article 7.—The organization is to be administered by a Directive Committee, formed by a President, a Secretary, and a Treasurer, which offices will be filled by the persons who have the same offices in the "Patronato de Leprosos de la Republic Argentina." Otherwise the Directive Committee will be organized by vote of the Directive Committee of the Patronato de Leprosos de la Republic Argentina and of the representative delegates of the affiliated institutions, except that when the number of the latter is in excess of ten these delegates shall elect ten among themselves to complete the Directive Committee. The Directive Committee will elect within itself the persons to be First Vice-President, Second Vice-President, Sub-Secretary, Sub-Treasurer, and seven Members. There will be also two substitute members. All the officers of the Directive Committee will be considered as honorary.

Article 8.—In accordance with Article 7, the President, the Secretary, and the Treasurer will be persons who execute the same functions in the Directive Committee of the Patronato de Leprosos de la Republica Argentina, and therefore their election shall coincide with the renewal of the Directive Committee of the Patronato de Leprosos de la Republica Argentina. This same criterion will apply to the election of the *Vocal* of the Directive Committee of the Patronato de Leprosos de la Republica Argentina. The delegates of the affiliated institutions shall be elected according to the by-laws or regulations established by themselves, but they should remain in office only three years, and can be reelected.

The first meeting of the Patronato de Leprosos Internacional, it is reported in the publication under review, was held on the evening of September 3, 1946, under the presidency of Sra. Blaquier. Some 53 persons are listed as in attendance, including 21 ladies who were officers or members of the Casa Central or the Argentina Patronato, 12 others representing five Casas Filiales (provincial) and three *subfiliales*, and apparently 14 Argentine physicians, official and otherwise, and an architect. From abroad there was one lady, a delegate of the Asociación de Asistencia of Paraguay, and one physician from Mexico. The ambassadors of Cuba and Peru were present, and representatives of the embassies of Chile, Colombia and Paraguay. There was no representation from Brazil.

No indication of formal resolutions adopted is found in the report but there apparently was one, for in accord with it, it is stated, the Comisión Directiva of the Argentine Patronato formed a special commission charged with the revision of the basis of the international organization and with preparations for the next Congreso Internacional de Asistencia Social de la Lepra, to be held at the seat of the Argentine institution.

Addendum.—In reply to a personal comment, Sra. Blaquier writes: "The object of the Patronato de Leprosos Internacional is not to lay down specific rules to be followed in different countries, because as you say the conditions vary greatly; the only purpose of this international service is to coordinate the efforts against leprosy, and to extend the benefits and experience of the older institutions to those places where antileprosy activities are being organized." At the time of the first meeting there was received the letter of adhesion of Sra. Eloísa Talavera de Taboada, president of the Asociación de Ayuda a los Lázaros y Defensa Contra la Lepra in Paraguay, which was published in the report; and soon afterward there were received letters of approval and adhesion from well known workers in Peru, Bolivia, Colombia, Venezuela, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Mexico, Cuba, Spain, and other places, including Drs. E. Agricola, L. de Souza Lima, N. Souza Campos, O. Diniz, F. Rabello and many others in Brazil.

—H. W. Wade

THE CENTRAL PACIFIC LEPROSARIUM

When the U. S. Navy administration of the Central Pacific began to function, very little was known of the extent of leprosy in the island groups in that region, except for Guam where only a few cases existed after nearly a half century of United States control. For his *World Wide Distribution and Prevalence of Leprosy* [THE JOURNAL, 1944, Suppl.], Burgess could obtain few actual figures for those islands. There was supposed to be a small asylum on Jaluit in the Marshalls, and one in the Palaus-Yap area; on Saipan—a statement ascribed to a League of Nations report—there was said to be one for the Marianas (apart from Guam) with accommodations for 377 patients.

A high-level survey group from Washington, in 1947, returned without actual data on this matter but with the impression that there would be not more than 100 cases found in the entire region. It was planned at that time, as part of an ambitious scheme for a tropical medicine research center to be established on Guam, to create there a central leprosy institution. The larger plan had to be abandoned, and the creation of a central leprosarium on Guam was interdicted by regional authority.

In June 1948 it was announced, according to various press clippings, that the island of Tinian, 110 miles north of Guam,

which during the war had been a base for B-29 bombers—including the atom-fission bomb raids on Hiroshima and Nagasaki—and was unpopulated, had been selected for the site of the proposed central station. Beginning in August a specially equipped medical survey ship was to make an extended trip through the Pacific Trust Territory and any persons in the Marshalls, the Carolines and the Marianas found to have leprosy would be transported to Tinian; later announcements included Palau and Yap.

More recent reports tell of the volunteering of a young Navy doctor, Lieut. (jg) Jack W. Millar, for a two-year assignment in charge of this colony. The place, the official name of which appears to be "Hansen's Colony," is pictured as composed of neat little huts, and is said to have been a village built by Americans for Okinawan fishermen and to have a total capacity of 100 patients. Lt. Millar was quoted as saying that there were 60 known cases on Yap, 9 on Guam, and "some" on Saipan; but he believed that more than 500 would be found, and perhaps as many as 1,000, among the 50,000 natives of the 120 populated islands in that vast area of approximately 2 million square miles.

The plan, it is said, is to segregate *all known cases* in the entire region "and to attempt to find the subclinical and undiagnosed cases, bring them to Tinian, and start active therapy."

✓ CONGRESS MEMBERS HONORED

From individual communications received it has been learned that various members of the Havana Congress, nominated by the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare, have been granted by the President of the Republic of Cuba decorations of the "Orden Nacional de Mérito 'Carlos J. Finlay'." No general announcement has been seen, so no list of persons so honored can be presented; it is known only that Mr. Perry Burgess, Dr. Casimiro B. Lara, and Dr. H. W. Wade have received formal notifications, the first two having the grade of "Oficial," the last the grade of "Comendador."



NEWS ITEMS

NOTES FROM BRAZIL

Meeting of leprosy workers.—During the three-day period November 18 to 20, 1948, a majority of the directors of official leprosy colonies of Brazil met in the city of Rio de Janeiro, under the auspices of the Ministry of Health, to discuss a program of improvement of leprosy control throughout the country. The subjects considered were: (a) organization of leprosy clinics (called *dispensarios*); (b) organization of *Caixias Beneficencias* (beneficial banks) in leproseries; (c) the problems of feeding in leproseries; (d) cooperation of antileprosy organizations with other health service bodies; and (e) better coordination between the leprosy services and the epidemiology sections, to activate the patients records of the Serviço Nacional de Lepra.

Brazilian Leprosy Association.—On November 19th, during the meeting in Rio de Janeiro, the "Associação Brasileira de Leprologia" was founded. Elected president and 1st and 2nd vice-presidents were Drs. Ernani Agricola, J. Alcantara Madeira and Orestes Diniz, respectively directors of the Leprosy Control Services of the Federal Government, of São Paulo, and of Minas Gerais. To the Council were elected, in the following order, Drs. N. Souza Campos, H. C. de Souza-Araujo, L. de Souza Lima, F. E. Rabello, H. Portugal, Alfredo Bluth, Abraão Salomão, Aureliano M. Moura and João de Aguiar Pupo. Dr. Joire Fonte was elected Secretary-Treasurer and Dr. Artur P. Marques, Secretary. The fiscal committee members are Drs. João Baptista Risi, Thomaz Pompeu Rossas and Auelino Nuguez Alonso. Drs. Henrique de Moura Costa, Olava de Andrade Lyra, Ruben David Azulay, José Pessôa Mendes and Manoel Varella Santiago form the Committee of Publications.

The *Revista Brasileira de Leprologia* was considered to be the provisional official organ of the new Association.

Historia da Lepra no Brasil.—The second volume of Dr. Souza-Araujo's History of Leprosy in Brazil has been published. This volume, a book of 400 large (32 x 22.5 cm.) pages, includes 380 plates with about 1,000 illustrations from photographs and plans of all the leproseries of Brazil. As was done with the first volume, one-half of the issue was set aside for sale on account of the special Souza-Araujo fund of the International Leprosy Association. The books which are now being sold for the benefit of that fund are:

Historia da Lepra no Brasil, vol. I, folio, bound, xix & 560 pp., with 40 pages of illustrations, 1946; \$12 or £3, net;

Historia da Lepra no Brasil, vol. II, same format, xx & 380 pp., 1948; \$8 or £2, net;

Atlas de la Lèpre of Danielssen and Boeck (1847), Centenary Edition, with 24 plates, 3 portraits and an index; \$4 or £1, net;

Leprosy; Survey Made in Forty Countries, 400 pp., 184 illustrations, Portuguese and English editions, 1929; \$4 or £1, net.

Orders should be addressed to Dr. H. C. de Souza-Araujo, P. O. Box 926, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Payments are to be made to or in favor of the Secretary-Treasurer, International Leprosy Association, 167 Victoria Street, London, S. W. 1.

New Preventoria.—In Rio Branco, the capital of Acre Territory, the Santa Margarida Preventorium for healthy children of leprosy parents—

the twenty-eighth such institution to be established in Brazil—was inaugurated on October 29, 1948. In the "Triangulo Mineiro" of Minas Gerais state Mrs. Eunice Weaver, assisted by Dr. Orestes Diniz and others, is raising money to build a new preventorium at Uberaba for such children of that region.

✓ *Leprosy service of the Federal District.*—The Mayor of Rio de Janeiro, General A. Mendes de Moraes, has appointed a commission of two engineers and one leprologist to choose the site of a new municipal leprosy colony. (For certain changes of personnel, see Personals.)

✓ *Prize for leprosy book.*—The Mayor of Rio de Janeiro has awarded to Dr. Raul Rocha, author of a manual on leprosy entitled *Da Lepra o Essencial* (The Essentials of Leprosy), a prize of Cr\$100,000 (about U. S. \$5,100) provided by the Municipal Representative Council on Dr. Souza-Araujo's recommendation.

✓ *Retirement provisions for leprosy employees.*—The Mayor of Rio de Janeiro has sanctioned a law permitting official employees attacked with leprosy to be retired on full salary. —H. C. DE SOUZA-ARAÚJO.

▷ *Argentina.*—The University of Buenos Aires has just created the "Centro de Leprología" for the study, investigation and teaching of leprosy. This center will be in connection with both Catedras of Dermatology (for students and post graduates) and also the Cátedra of Epidemiology. The Director, elected by competition, is Dr. Guillermo Basombrío.

✓ *India.*—The most recent statement to be seen regarding the number of persons with leprosy in India is ascribed to Dr. Jivray Melita, director-general of the India Health Services. Approximately one million of the estimated five million cases in the world are in that country, some 200,000 of them to be regarded as infectious. "In heavily infected areas the population affected may range from two to five per cent, while in individual villages the proportion may be as high as 10 to 15 per cent."

✓ *India.*—The Second All-India Leprosy Workers Conference was scheduled to be held in Calcutta on December 29 to 31, 1948. Indicating that the plans for it were rather ambitious, invitations to attend were received by workers in the Philippines. [It is expected that, in due course, an adequate report of this meeting will be available for this section.]

✓ *Japan.*—Recent reports ascribe to Dr. Keizo Nakamura, of the National Institute of Health of Japan, the claim of having cultivated the leprosy bacillus on a medium containing mucin and some other, unnamed substance. According to a story in the *New Orleans Times-Picayune*, Dr. Masakana Terada, chairman of the Japan Bacteriological Society, had said that though the achievement would be of international importance if true, "there was no official medical confirmation of the claim." On the other hand Dr. Charles M. Carpenter, professor of infectious diseases of the University of California in Los Angeles, writes that a recent Japanese visitor there had expressed the belief that the report of Nakamura was dependable. [Since we have been unable as yet to make any contact in Japan leading to the appointment of a Contributing Editor there, we have no way of obtaining more direct or definite information, and we therefore request any reader who may have such information to communicate with us.—EDITOR.]

✓ *Japan.*—At a meeting of U. S. Army medical officers and civilian consultants from the homeland, held recently at Eighth Army medical

installations in Tokyo, according to the *Journal of the American Medical Association* (Dec. 11, p. 1102), one of the features was a symposium on leprosy with a demonstration of cases led by Dr. M. C. Morton, assistant chief, Medical Service Division, Public Health and Welfare, SCAP.

✓ *Liberia*.—In a review of three years' work in Liberia by the United States Public Health Service Mission and the Department of State Nursing Education Mission, written by Dr. John B. West, Director, [*Pub. Health Rep.* 63 (1948) 1351-1364, Oct. 15] leprosy is referred to only very incidentally. Material pertaining to that disease which was being accumulated included a basic photographic library in color, apparently being taken at a substation at Ganta operating under the administration of Dr. George W. Harley. It was he who wrote in 1935 [see *THE JOURNAL* 3 (1935) 505] that the M. E. Mission at Ganta had begun a leprosy colony and already had 70 patients in residence, while work in progress would permit increasing the number to 200 or more.

✓ *Mexico*.—In the city of Guadalajara, according to Dr. José Barba Rubio, chief of the Instituto Dermatológico of that city, there has recently been established an Instituto para Diagnostico, Tratamiento, Control y Investigación Científica Sobre Lepra. It was organized on the initiative of the nonofficial Patronato de Lucha Contra la Lepra, in collaboration with the Government of the State of Jalisco and the Secretaría de Salubridad y Asistencia (Department of Health and Welfare); administratively it is directly under the Servicios Coordinados de Salubridad y Asistencia of the State. It is desired to develop a library of scientific publications, and donations of periodicals and other pertinent matter are being sought.

✓ *Mexico*.—According to statements attributed by the *New Orleans Times-Picayune* to Dr. José Perches Franco, director of prophylaxis against leprosy of Mexico, there are 8,000 officially known cases in the country and it is estimated that there are 24,000 unreported cases [which would be approximately 1.36 cases per thousand]. Mexican law, it was said, requires that every state with 100 or more leprosy cases shall have a leprosarium, but as yet there was only a single one, located about 50 miles from Mexico City and treating 300 patients. In addition, there are 20 dispensaries for the treatment of leprosy persons, mostly in the Pacific states. It was expected that "at least three leprosaria" would be built in 1948. The sum of \$500,000 had been allocated for the purchase of sulfone drugs for the year. The need of preventoria for the children of infected parents was mentioned.

✓ *Nauru*.—This tiny Pacific island, said to be only 8 square miles (5,263 acres) in area, has been of political interest with respect to its trusteeship assignment under the United Nations because of its 90,000,000 tons of rich phosphate rock, and of epidemiological interest to students of leprosy because of the remarkable epidemic which occurred there. At one time the disease involved nearly 30 per cent of its native population of about 1,600 people. With the measures taken it declined rapidly; in 1936 there were only 159 cases, or about 10 per cent of the population (57 infectious ones in segregation, 33 males and 24 females, and 102 noninfectious ones under clinic treatment, 45 males and 57 females, making the sex ratio practically 1:1); and apparently it had declined somewhat more at the time the last statistics were recorded. When it was occupied by the Japanese, according to a report in the *New York Times*, the native population was 1,827, but during the occupation 725 of them died. A rumor

became current that the leprosy persons had been dealt with most ruthlessly. Late in 1947 Nauru was declared a United Nations Trust Territory, and a trusteeship agreement naming Australia, Great Britain and New Zealand as joint administrators was approved by the General Assembly. An inquiry was then addressed to the Australian authorities as to what the situation as regards leprosy actually was. Through them the following statement by Mr. Mark Ridgway, Administrator of Nauru, was received. "Thirty-nine lepers were on Nauru when the Japanese occupied the island in August 1942. They received no treatment from the Japanese, who about a year later herded them into a barge which was towed out to sea and, according to reports, was then destroyed by gunfire. No trace has been found of any survivors. A survey made soon after the island was reoccupied, in September 1945, disclosed the existence of 10 cases of leprosy, all of which are receiving treatment."

✓ *Philippines.*—An intensive survey of the war-devastated public health and quarantine facilities, conducted by the United States Public Health Service after liberation in 1945, revealed widespread destruction of all such facilities and a startling high incidence of malaria, tuberculosis and venereal diseases. There had been dispersed throughout the population more than 5,000 persons with leprosy, who before the war had been segregated in leprosaria. Toward the end of that year the United States Congress appropriated \$1 million to assist the Republic in restoring those facilities and activities, and under another act a further \$5 million was added for the Philippine Public Health Rehabilitation Program which had been established under Brigadier General Howard F. Smith, Assistant Surgeon General, U.S.P.H.S. This program involved primarily special campaigns against malaria, tuberculosis and venereal diseases, but other features included an allotment to assist in the antileprosy campaign of the Philippine government. With Dr. Marciano Carreon, previously head of the leprosy section of the Bureau of Health, directing that activity four traveling "skin dispensary" units were established and all engaged in searching for new cases and collecting general statistics in the field. A special project taken on was the equipping and activation of a special nursery at the Culion Leper Colony for the care of infants born of inmate mothers. Since only babies removed immediately after birth are placed there it was opened with one, and the number there will increase only as new births occur.

✓ *Philippines.*—Newspaper stories tell of activities planned by a group—"a handful of private citizens"—called The Society of Friends of Lepers, said to have been organized in 1947 by a representative of UNRRA and now to be headed by a U. S. Army chaplain, Rev. Joseph Koch with a Philippine directorate. Of actual accomplishments, it is said that the society was responsible for the sending of "Joey" Guerrero to the United States for treatment.

✓ *South Africa.*—The Mission to Lepers (British), last year, established a South African Auxiliary. An announcement, which appeared in the *South African Weekly* of October 17, 1947, called attention to the large numbers of persons with leprosy in the British territories of Africa ("more than 500,000") and to the fact that much of the labor used in South African industries comes from parts where leprosy is much more prevalent than it is in the Union; and it urged that every effort should be made to eradicate the disease. The function of the newly established Auxiliary

is to create interest in, and support for, the world-wide work of the Mission, and especially to increase relief work among African victims of the disease. The Archbishop of Cape Town accepted the presidency of the auxiliary. Its secretary, charged with the development of its work, was the late Rev. Frank Oldrieve, at Brook House, Brooklyn, Pretoria.

✓ *Union of South Africa.*—A regional leprosy conference was held in Pretoria on October 19 and 20, 1948, attended by representatives of several neighboring political entities. (It is expected that a more or less detailed report of this meeting will be available for the next issue.)

✓ *The South Pacific.*—A statement regarding leprosy from a report for 1946-1947 of the Inspector General of the South Pacific Health Service gives, among other things, a tabulation of the sources of the 611 patients then at the Makogai settlement colony: Indians, 240 (39.3%); Fijians, 127 (20.8%); Cook Island Maoris, 57 (9.3%); Samoans, 47 (7.7%); Gilbert and Ellis Islanders, 44 (7.2%); Solomon Islanders, 28 (4.6%); Tongans, 26 (4.3%); Rotumans, 8 (1.3%); Niueans, 6 (1.0%); Chinese, 6 (1.0%); part Europeans, 18 (2.9%); and Europeans, 4 (0.6%). Dr. C. J. Austin, medical superintendent of the colony, had reported that 25.9 per cent of 2,845 cases had been discharged (during what period of time does not appear) after the statutory two-year period of observation. In the British Solomon Islands Protectorate two missions maintained small settlements, and the organization of one by the government had been started. In the New Hebrides a survey was to be started with funds donated by the Lepers' Trust Board of New Zealand, which organization had been enabled to provide more help for the comfort and welfare of these people in the Pacific Islands than could adequately be acknowledged.

✓ *The Lepers' Trust Board.*—This organization apparently spark-plugged by Mr. P. J. ("Leper Man") Towmey, M.B.E., of Christchurch, N.I., is described in an undated pamphlet as a nondenominational society "originating in New Zealand, consisting of New Zealand residents, and representing a large number of New Zealand contributors" which for several years (twenty-one years of activity is indicated in one place) has distributed substantial assistance through several mission bodies working in the Solomons and the New Hebrides, and is also assisting at Makogai in the Fijis and in Samoa, Cook, Wallis, Gilbert and Ellice, Tonga and New Caledonia. A map bearing the legend "Our Sphere of Work Assisting 3,000 Lepers" shows lines radiating from New Zealand in the entire arc from the Solomons in the northwest to the Societies (Tahiti) 2,221 miles away to the northeast.

✓ *United States.*—There is a possibility of an increase in the number of leprosy cases in New York City because of the influx of immigrants from Caribbean areas, according to an interview in the *New York Times* with Dr. Morris Greenberg, director of the Bureau of Preventable diseases of the Health Department, who took the occasion to review the experience of the past 20 years. In that period 131 cases have been reported to the department (an average of 6.55 per year, varying from 1 to 9 in any given year). None of them had been born in the city, and only 11 had come from other parts of the United States (4 from California, 3 from Florida, 3 from Texas and 1 from South Carolina); 64 came from the Caribbean region (the British West Indies, Puerto Rico, Cuba and Central America), 20 from China, the Philippines and Burma, 17 from Europe, 17 from South America, and 2 from Africa. About one-half of them were married and

there had been 74 children born of those unions, but not a single secondary case had developed in the city. Of the total group, 68 had eventually been sent to Carville, 20 had died of other diseases, 11 had returned to their own countries, and 7 had been lost to sight; 25 remained under the bureau's scrutiny. Leprous persons in New York, Dr. Greenberg stated, are permitted "fairly free movement" if they adhere to certain regulations, which prohibit their working as food handlers and require that they live under hygienic conditions and, together with all other persons living in their homes, submit to annual examination.

Another and less enlightened side of the picture was revealed in another newspaper report, according to which a Federal courtroom in New York was hastily deserted by spectators when a prisoner who pleaded guilty to illegal possession of narcotics was disclosed as having absconded from the Carville leprosarium. When a physician at the Federal House of Detention recognized that the man had leprosy the patient "was isolated immediately and all his bedding and towels were destroyed"; furthermore, "since no penal institution would receive him for fear of contamination, he was given a suspended sentence and was turned over to the Board of Health."

✓ *United States.*—An unusual engagement received much publicity when it was announced that a pretty young secretary at the Carville leprosarium—said to have gone there from the Angelus Temple in Los Angeles "to give spiritual aid" to the patients—was going to marry one of them. The young man was expected to be ready for discharge shortly and the couple planned to establish a home in New York, "the only state which does not require segregation." The consent of the couple's parents had been obtained, it was said; the approval of the director of the leprosarium had not been received, but it was not required.

✓ *United States.*—Among the projects recommended by the Bacteriological Study Section, National Institute of Health, U. S. Public Health Service, for the fiscal year 1948-49 is one in favor of Dr. Charles M. Carpenter, University of California, Los Angeles, in the amount of \$11,366 for continuation of the studies of murine leprosy which he has been carrying on for some time.

48 ✓ *United States.*—Reports emanating from San Francisco last April told of the elaboration, by Drs. B. L. Freedlander and F. A. French, the former a tuberculosis specialist and the latter a biochemist working at the Mt. Zion hospital in that city, of a group of new synthetic drugs said to be all derived from benzothiazole, "a common commercial chemical," which in preliminary experiments had given promise of being more active and less toxic than those which are now in actual use in tuberculosis and leprosy. One of them, it was stated, had proved in test tube experiments to be twenty-five times as effective against leprosy germs [*sic*] as diasone, though nothing so spectacular had been observed in animal experiments with tuberculosis.

✓ *U. S. S. R.*—From time to time in the past THE JOURNAL has been privileged to publish reports of work by Russian colleagues, and it was naturally anticipated that this cooperation would be continued after the war. According to an article in the weekly magazine *Collier's*, Russian scientists have been "forbidden to have anything published abroad, and communication with foreign colleagues is frowned upon." The article in which this statement appeared cites the case of two well-known medical

scientists who "were recently given party trials and severely reprimanded for writing to American scientists."

PERSONALS

DR. ALFRED BLUTH, for ten years director of the Lazaropolis do Parata in Pará, was appointed on April 26, 1948, director of the Colonia Tavares de Macedo located in Venda de Pedras, State of Rio de Janeiro.

DR. HOWARD T. KARSNER, professor of pathology at Western Reserve University, Cleveland, and secretary of the Advisory Medical Board of the Leonard Wood Memorial, is reported (*Journal of the American Medical Association*) to have been appointed medical research adviser to the Surgeon General of the U. S. Navy and to the director of the Research Division of the Navy Bureau of Medicine and Surgery. As staff consultant, he will assist and advise the Surgeon General concerning evaluation, coordination and development of the Navy Medical Department's research program.

DR. JAMES L. MAXWELL, who was in England when the war broke out and took over a village practice to free a younger man for service, was recently heard from as planning to return to China to take charge of the leprosy station at Hangchow.

LT. (JG) JACK W. MILLAR, M. C., U. S. N., has accepted assignment in charge of the newly established leprosy colony on Tinian, Central Pacific.

DR. JOAQUIM MOTTA, for many years director of the Leprosy Control Service of the Federal District, Brazil, has resigned. DR. OLAVO DE ANDRADE LYRA was appointed to the position on August 11, 1948.

DR. E. MUIR has announced his intention to return to India about the end of the year to serve as superintendent of the Purulia colony for a period of two and one-half years.

DR. ALBERTO OTEIZA SETIEN, for some years director of the Patronato de Sifilologia, Leprologia y Enfermedades Cutaneas de Cuba, and President of the Fifth International Congress of Leprosy held in Havana last April, has been appointed Ministro de Salubridad by the new President of Cuba, Dr. Prió Socarrás.

DR. GUILLERMO SOWERS previously sub-director of the Patronato para la Sifilis, Lepra y Enfermedades Cutaneas (PSLEC) of Cuba, was appointed director general when Dr. Oteiza was made minister of health.

DR. H. W. WADE, after more than a year away from his station in the Philippines, returned to that country in August. After visits of investigation at Cebu and, by arrangement with the U. S. Army, at Okinawa, he proceeded to Culion in October.

DR. V. ZANETTI, Inspector, in charge of the antileprosy work of the Croix Rouge du Congo, perished in an airplane accident at Libenge in May 1948, while returning from the Congo to Europe. A young laboratory worker, L. SWERTS, a disciple of Prof. Gratia, has gone to Pawa where the census of the population has been started again.