

REPORT ON ASSOCIATION AFFAIRS

At the general meeting of the International Leprosy Association held on April 11th, 1948, during the Havana Congress, it was resolved:

(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.

As regards the first part of this resolution, a number of the societies and organizations working in leprosy have been com-

municated with and have signified their desire to be affiliated with the Association. The General Secretary will be glad to hear from any other such bodies which may desire affiliation.

As for the second part of the resolution, pertaining to the World Health Organization, the General Secretary found that there was not time to arrange for representation at the first meeting of its Assembly. After communication with the WHO was initiated the Association was invited to send a representative to the general assembly of the Council for the Coordination of International Congresses of Medical Sciences, which met at Brussels, April 4th to 9th, 1949, under the joint auspices of WHO and UNESCO. Arrangements were made for Dr. R. Chaussinand, Secretary-Treasurer of the Western Section, to attend that meeting, as has been reported [THE JOURNAL 17 (1949) 103 and 130]. Our Association thus had the honor of being one of the thirty-eight founder members of this important body.

At the second meeting of the Assembly of the World Health Organization, held in Rome in August 1949, the Association was represented, again by Dr. Chaussinand.

The object of the second part of the resolution referred to above is therefore accomplished, except that there are required (a) the endorsement of the action of the General Secretary by the members of the Association, and (b) the ratification by the members of the statutes of the Council for the Coordination of International Congresses of Medical Sciences.

It should be mentioned that the cost to the Association of membership in that Council will be slight, and in the nature of what was described at the meeting as a "purely symbolic subscription." On the other hand the benefits to be derived in assistance to the Association, especially at the time of international congresses, will be substantial.

Ratification of the statutes within six months of the meeting, was required, and that time has already passed when these lines are written. Members are therefore asked to send, immediately on receipt of this number of THE JOURNAL, any comments they desire to make to the General Secretary of the International Leprosy Association, c/o British Empire Leprosy Relief Association, 167 Victoria Street, London, S.W.1, England. Failing receipt of such comments within a reasonable time, acceptance will be taken for granted, and the General Secretary will communicate to the Council the ratification of the statutes by the Association.

—E. MUIR.