



# INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF LEPROSY

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## THE INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF LEPROSY AN EDITORIAL STATEMENT

The appearance of the INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF LEPROSY is, in a way, the culmination of hopes that have been held for a considerable number of years. Some ten years ago a few specially interested persons carried on a long-distance correspondence concerning possible means of bringing the widely scattered leprosy workers into closer personal contact, and of making at least the more important literature of leprosy more certainly and promptly available to all of them. Though other possible means were considered, it was evident that the desired ends could be accomplished satisfactorily only through the formation of a special organization which as a first and most important objective should publish a journal devoted to leprosy, and which might undertake to arrange for periodical meetings of leprosy workers.

There had never been any large, international organization of leprologists, no organized body which might support a special publication or attempt to perpetuate that most praise-worthy movement of local groups which resulted in the International Leprosy Conferences of 1898 (Berlin), 1909 (Bergen), and 1923 (Strasbourg). For several years the literary field was covered by the privately-owned journal, LEPRA, but since its suspension early in 1915 there had not been any major periodical of scientific nature devoted to this subject. The leprosy abstracts of the TROPICAL DISEASES BULLETIN—which for several years have been widely distributed in reprint form by the British Empire Leprosy Relief Association—and certain special

publications have been most valuable, but they have hardly lessened the need of a regular full-scope journal of leprosy.

The objective to be sought was clear, but the means of attaining it was not. It would have been a comparatively simple matter at least to initiate a leprosy organization, but the revenues from members' dues that could be expected would have been much too small to permit publishing a creditable journal. Without at least this activity such an organization would have been futile, sterile, and shortlived. The matter was therefore put in abeyance until financial aid could be secured.

In the latter part of 1930 the Leonard Wood Memorial, a fund or foundation raised to support leprosy research and, so far as practicable, to aid the progress of leprosy work in other ways, became an accomplished fact. To the intimation that it might be requested to assist in the publication of a leprosy journal, the Memorial authorities showed a sympathetic attitude, provided such a request should come from a responsible group or organization. Consequently, on the occasion of the Leonard Wood Memorial Conference on Leprosy, held in Manila, in January, 1931, the members of that conference organized, on a temporary basis, the nucleus of the International Leprosy Association. The purposes, composition, and organization of the Association as it now exists are set forth elsewhere in this issue.

The newly organized Association made a formal request of the Leonard Wood Memorial for a subsidy in support of its proposed official organ, to be called the INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF LEPROSY. In due course this was granted, on generous terms. The amount involved will, at least for some time, be much more than will derive from the Association itself and from non-member subscriptions to the Journal. However, it is expected that the Association will wish to assume full support of its publication as soon as possible.

The purpose of the Journal is to serve as the principal, and a truly international medium of publication of worthwhile articles on leprosy, and as a collecting medium for all other material of similar nature that is not published therein originally. Its pages are open to all writers on leprosy, and not solely to members of the International Leprosy Association. It is, however, the property and official organ of the Association, which alone is responsible for its policies.

Editorial responsibility is vested in the Editorial Board, which consists of an Editor and two Associate Editors. The Editor is appointed by the General Council; the Associate Editors are, *ex officio*,

the elected Secretary-Treasurers of the Sections of the Association. A number of Contributing Editors are chosen from among the members of the Association in the different leprosy countries and regions. Their principal function is to provide abstracts and news notes, and the success of the Journal will depend very largely upon their active cooperation. None of the staff receives any monetary compensation.

The financial affairs of the Journal are handled by a Business Manager, appointed by the President. Funds for publication derive from three sources: (1) Dues of members of the Association, except such amounts as are appropriated by the General Council for other purposes; (2) Receipts on account of non-membership subscriptions and sales of single copies, reprints, etc.; (3) Subsidy from the Leonard Wood Memorial, which will be the amount of the annual deficit within a certain limit. The available funds in sight from the first two sources are not expected to exceed \$1,000 for the first year of publication, and the total publication costs are estimated at approximately \$5,000 a year.

Special mention is to be made of a fund of £180 raised through the efforts of Dr. H. C. de Souza-Araujo, of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, for the publication of a leprosy periodical and turned over by him to the Association as a contribution for the Journal. This by agreement will not be used for ordinary publication costs, but is held as a special fund to meet extraordinary expenses.

A more detailed statement concerning the material to be published in the JOURNAL appears in the editorial section of this issue. It is to be said here that while the publication of this first issue is, in a way, a realization of hopes, the issue itself is by no means the culmination of hopes for the Journal itself. In important respects it falls admittedly short. With limited funds, without any full-time personnel, its inauguration has met with unexpected difficulties and delays, and the abstract and news item section are not all that they are expected to become. Those who have been invited to serve as Contributing Editors and to provide material of this nature have responded most cordially, but they are busy men scattered widely over the world. It may take some time to get this work satisfactorily under way, but the Editors are confident that the ultimate results will be well worth the effort involved.

H. W. WADE