

NATIONAL LEPROSY CONFERENCE IN CHINA¹

In 1931 the Chinese Mission to Lepers planned for a leprosy conference which should be national in scope, to be held in Shanghai early in 1932. Unexpected circumstances necessitated postponement, but it was finally held on the 5th and 6th of October. The first of these dates was the last day of the first conference of the new amalgamated Chinese Medical Association, the first session of the leprosy conference being a joint meeting.

The meetings were well attended, there being some 70 delegates, including several men from abroad who are especially interested in leprosy work. The following papers were presented:

The present status of the leprosy question in China, by Dr. Wu Lien-Teh (of Shanghai).

Leprosy in China, by Dr. James L. Maxwell (of Shanghai).

The world leprosy situation; also, The work and influence of mission institutions, by Mr. W. H. P. Anderson (of London).

The present problem and organization of leprosy research, by Dr. H. W. Wade (of Cullion, Philippine Islands).

The early symptoms of leprosy, by Dr. F. Reiss (of Shanghai).

The treatment and prognosis of leprosy, by Dr. L. F. Heimburger (of Tsinan).

Out-patient leprosy work, by Dr. N. D. Graser (of Swatow).

The leprosy problem in Hangchow, by Dr. S. D. Sturton (of Hongchow).

Problems of segregation and care for the arrested, negative cases of leprosy, by Dr. C. M. Hasselmann (of Manila).

One session of the conference was devoted to a round-table discussion, under the chairmanship of Dr. James L. Maxwell. It was pointed out that progress demanded unity of purpose and effort to accomplish the most possible with the facilities at hand. The discussions were confined to four main heads.

(1) *Educational methods*.—The discussion touched on the use of articles and advertisements in newspapers, radio broadcasting, moving pictures and lantern slides, and material in health textbooks in schools, the latter requiring official action.

¹ Failing receipt of a summary of the activities of this conference from an official source, this statement has been prepared from material published in the March, 1933, issue of the *Chinese Medical Journal*, in which are published the resolutions adopted by the conference and the papers read before it. These will be abstracted in the JOURNAL in due course.—EDITOR.

(2) *Recording methods.*—The absence of any uniform system of recording in the leprosaria in China was discussed. In view of the importance of uniformity in the use of terms the conference adopted a resolution urging the use of the classification and terminology adopted by the Leonard Wood Memorial leprosy conference.

(3) *Treatment methods.*—Emphasis was laid on the importance of standardization of treatment where experimental work cannot be done. The irritation caused by and high cost of commercial ethyl esters was brought out and a resolution adopted proposing that the Philippine Government be invited to make the ethyl esters prepared at Culion available for use in China.

(4) *Institutions.*—It was agreed that three types of institutions were needed: (1) homes or settlements for advanced and crippled cases, (2) hospitals for infectious-stage cases with reasonable hope for cure, and (3) dispensaries for early, non-infective cases.

The conference passed a resolution urging the Central Government of China to consider the promulgation of "modern and humane laws for the better supervision and treatment of lepers", and also urging that private organizations interested in leprosy work should be encouraged in that interest.

Other features of the conference were (1) a brief talk on trees providing chaulmoogra-group oils, by Dr. Rock, botanical explorer from Yunnan, (2) a clinical demonstration of the intradermal infiltration ("plancha") method of treatment, by Dr. Fraser of Swatow, and a discussion of this and a lantern slide demonstration of certain features of leprosy by Dr. Wade of Culion.

Social events included a reception and tea tendered the conference by General Wu Te-chen, Mayor of Greater Shanghai, and a dinner by the Chinese Mission to Lepers.