

NEWS ITEMS

This department carries information concerning institutions, organizations and individuals, scientific or other meetings, acts of legislature and other activities, and any and all other similar matters that may be of interest to leprosy workers. In large part such matter is collected by the Contributing Editors, but all readers are invited to cooperate with the editorial staff by sending in anything of this nature which they consider of interest.

Surveys in China.—The following information concerning work under way has been received from Dr. H. S. Gear, of the Department of Preventive Medicine and Medical Statistics, Henry Lester Institute of Medical Research, Shanghai:

General epidemiological survey.—At the general conference of the Chinese Medical Association held in Shanghai last year it was resolved to attempt some study of the incidence and distribution of disease in China. This was felt to be an urgent need in the absence of any statistics of value. Following an address by Major Edge it was decided to adopt the simple card method of case reporting advocated by him and to accept the offer made by Dr. Earle, the Director of the Henry Lester Institute, Shanghai, that the Institute undertake the work.

The Department of Preventive Medicine has organized the survey, and is now receiving every month batches of cards from thirty hospitals situated throughout China. For every new case seen a card is completed and at the end of each month the complete returns are sent in for analysis. These analyses are then reported on summary forms which are of value to the hospitals in that they provide accurate figures for incorporation in the statistical sections of annual reports. For the first time many of the hospitals will be in a position to know the conditions affecting their out-patients, and the publication of the survey summaries will result in uniform statistics capable of comparison with those from other areas.

The card provides information of each case concerning age, domicile, occupation, date of admission and diagnosis. These few facts indicate the intention to keep the survey as simple as possible, as only the minimum of information could be expected from hospitals that are badly overworked and understaffed. However, it is maintained that examination of even these simple data will provide information of value, not only on the disease distribution in China but also on various problems such as seasonal variation, for example. At present the research is being enthusiastically supported by the hospitals, sufficient evidence of the fine spirit actuating their staffs; and it is hoped that the survey will continue for a longer period than the

year originally suggested as the minimum. It is intended to commence reporting detailed results early next year.

Leprosy survey.—This survey is one of the results of the leprosy conference held in Shanghai last year under the auspices of the Chinese Mission to Lepers. It was felt that some attempt should be made to discover the incidence of leprosy in China.

With this object, Dr. James Maxwell visited several hospitals along the South China coast and obtained their support. In cooperation with the Department of Preventive Medicine, Henry Lester Institute, he arranged for particulars of each case of leprosy to be entered on a card and the area in which the disease was reported to be indicated on maps. These hospitals will provide information of leprosy from the provinces of Fukien and Kwantung, but it is hoped gradually to obtain wider support.

The information required in each case includes: domicile when the disease was reported, past domicile, age, occupation, type of disease, nature of early symptoms, contact with other lepers, history of familiar leprosy, concurrent disease, remarks, diagram of body distribution of disease.

Japanese mission to lepers.—A recent visitor at the Culion Leper Colony was Mr. Jun Suzuki, of the Tokyo Y.M.C.A., who is also the Secretary of the Japanese Mission to Lepers. This organization is devoted chiefly to welfare work among the inmates of the leprosaria, its activities varying from the building of cottages (at the Tokyo and Okayama institutions) to the collecting of discarded straw hats at the end of the summer for the use of the inmates in the next year. It also carries on propaganda work, sponsoring last year four public lecture meetings in Tokyo. The other officers are: M. Kobayashi, president, Drs. T. Kagawa, K. Nutsuda and H. Hayashi, and Messrs. T. Yusa and Y. Goto.

Farm exhibits.—Exhibitions of farm and garden products are an interesting and valuable feature of the year in certain of the government leprosaria in Japan. They have been held annually since 1928 in the Zensei-Byoin, near Tokyo, and the feature was instituted last year in the new Federal institution on Nagashima Island. According to a letter from the farm adviser of that institution these exhibits are not only encouraging and interesting to the inmates, but are stimulating and educative to the farmers of the villages of the neighborhood, who participate in the exhibits and have on this occasion an opportunity to visit the institution.

A new colony in Nigeria.—A small leper colony has recently been started at Ogbomoso, Nigeria, by Dr. B. L. Lockett, according to a letter from his colleague, Dr. J. C. Anders. The land and money were given by the native administration of Oyo Province, and only natives of that province are admitted. At the time of writing there were 22 early cases in residence. Farms have been laid out with orange, mango and banana trees bounding them. Each patient gets a shilling a week for food money, beyond which he must support himself on his farm.

Epidemiological inquiry at Cebu.—Early in June Dr. J. A. Doull, head of the Department of Preventive Medicine at Western Reserve University, Cleveland,

Ohio, arrived in the Philippine Islands to undertake a brief preliminary investigation of the epidemiological problem of leprosy as it is represented in Cebu, one of the principal islands in the Philippines. This work, which is under the auspices of the Leonard Wood Memorial, will be carried on for four months in the closest cooperation with the leprosy section of the Philippine Bureau of Health. In some respects it is an extension of an inquiry that has been carried on for some time by Dr. José N. Rodriguez, head of the field work of the Bureau. A field branch of the Cebu Skin Clinic has been set up, a truck and a motor-cycle are equipped to help make contact with the people who live at a distance from the clinic, and with a special temporary staff an intensive investigation of the population and conditions in a limited area is being commenced. After this and further work it will be attempted to set up a program for future work on a broader scale, if such an extension is feasible from the financial and other viewpoints.

Bacteriological work at Culion.—For probably the first time in the history of leprosy research a worker who has carried on a piece of research has been given the opportunity to repeat and extend his work in a far distant part of the world. Dr. Malcolm H. Soule, of the department of hygiene of the University of Michigan has arrived in the Philippine Islands, under the auspices of the Leonard Wood Memorial and with the consent of the Bureau of Health of the Philippine Government, to spend four months at Culion. He will attempt to repeat and extend the results obtained in a joint study with Dr. Earl B. McKinley, at the School of Tropical Medicine in Puerto Rico, in 1931, work which has been given notice in the JOURNAL.

Chaulmoogra in experimental tuberculosis.—Chaulmoogra oil, used in the treatment of leprosy, is being tried as a remedy for tuberculosis induced experimentally in guinea-pigs, according to Science Service (Washington, D. C.). Good results in checking the course of the disease are reported by the investigators, Dr. Erik Ohlsson and G. Glimstedt, of the Agricultural High School at Alnarp, Sweden. The experiments are still in progress and the authors point out that it would be unjustifiable and objectionable to try the method on human beings before the investigations on animals have been definitely concluded. [*Science*, 76 (1932) suppl., p. 8.]

Polymorphism of cultures from leprosy.—The Paris correspondent of the *Journal of the American Medical Association* [98 (1932) 2222] in discussing work on the polymorphism of bacteria mentioned certain findings of Dr. Vaudremer with the tubercle bacillus and added:

At present he is engaged in studies on the bacillus of leprosy, and he has secured some interesting results. In collaboration with Mr. Sézary and Mlle. Brun, he cultivated successively fragments of cutaneous leprosy and of leprous spleen in a filtered extract of *Aspergillus fumigatus*, in Martin's bouillon, ordinary potato bouillon and glycerinated potato bouillon. Mr. Vaudremer secured pseudomeningococcal gram-positive forms, short and granular cyanophil bacilli, long, flexuose and granular cyanophil bacilli, and finally acid-resistant forms. Fragments of lepromas were ground up in aspergillar fluid. This fluid filtered through candle L² did not produce cultures during the first nine months; but, from that time on, pseudomeningococcal forms appeared in the potato bouillon and developed into acid-resistant forms.

Vaudremer and S ezary think that the organisms that develop from these cultures are forms of the Hansen bacillus and that this bacillus, similar to many others, may present itself in the form of elements that pass through an L³ candle.

Personals.—Dr. Victor G. Heiser of the Rockefeller Foundation, and President of the International Leprosy Association, has been for several months on one of his periodic trips around the world. He is expected in New York City about the first of August, where his address will be care of the Rockefeller Foundation, 49 West 49th Street. The foundation has removed from its old location at 61 Broadway to the new Rockefeller Center.

Dr. Robert G. Cochrane, Medical Secretary of the BELRA (England) and General Secretary-Treasurer of the International Leprosy Association, who has spent several months in India and Ceylon engaged in clinical investigation and survey work, is scheduled to return to England leaving India on August 21.

Dr. James L. Maxwell, of the Henry Lester Institute of Medical Research, Shanghai, and Associate Editor of this JOURNAL, who at present is in England on furlough, plans to leave there about the middle of August to return to the Far East.

Dr. H. P. Lie, Leprosy Inspector for Norway and Associate Editor of the JOURNAL, despite imperfect health is making an annual inspection trip about the country.

Dr. F. Hayashi, first assistant at the National Leprosarium at Nagashima, Okayama, Japan, is on an extensive tour of leprosy countries as a fellow of the Health Section of the League of Nations. After a prolonged visit in the Philippines (at Culion, Cebu and Manila) and in India, he will proceed to Europe and later to South America.