

LEPROSY NEWS

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

THE VII INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF LEPROLOGY

The International Leprosy Association, at its general meeting held in Madrid on October 11, 1953, after the closing of the VI International Congress of Leprology, accepted the invitation of the Government of India that the 1958 Congress be held in India. Preparations for the Congress have now been taken in hand. The Government of India has appointed an Organizing Committee with Lt.-Col. C. K. Lakshmanan, Director General of Health Services, as Chairman, Dr. Dharmendra as Secretary, and about a dozen other members. It has been decided to hold the Congress at New Delhi, November 10 to 16, 1958.

Details of the technical aspects of the Congress will be worked out by the Organizing Committee in consultation with the International Leprosy Association. In light of the experience of the previous congresses, the Association has under contemplation the introduction of some new procedures, both before and at the Congress itself. The contemplated changes will have a bearing, amongst other things, on the nature of the scientific sessions and on the procedure for setting up the technical committees of the Congress. When an agreement is reached on these matters, the accepted procedures will be duly announced.

The present preliminary announcement is being made to provide early information about the venue and dates of the Congress. Further information regarding the official subjects for discussion at the Congress, the last date for receipt of application for membership and for submitting papers, membership fees, travel arrangements and accommodations at New Delhi, etc., will be published later in the form of a descriptive bulletin. (Some details are given in the next news item).

Congress members may attend under official or institutional auspices, or on a private basis. Official invitations to various governments requesting them to appoint official delegates to the Congress will be sent through the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India. Apart from the official invitations, the Organizing Committee has pleasure in extending invitations to all members of the International Leprosy Association, members of the leprologist associations in the various countries, and all other persons interested in the study of leprosy. There is likely to be, as at the Madrid congress, a difference between members of the International Leprosy As-

sociation and nonmembers with respect to the registration fee. Persons who are not already members of the Association may now join it.¹

DHARMENDRA
Secretary
Organizing Committee of the
VII International Congress of Leprology

PROPOSED METHOD OF CONDUCTING THE SCIENTIFIC WORK OF THE
VII INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF LEPROLOGY

To be held in New Delhi, India, November 10-16, 1958

A. As at previous leprosy congresses there shall be two groups, or committees, sharing the responsibilities of preparing for and conducting the coming Congress, namely, (1) a local Organizing Committee, set up by the host country, and (2) the I.L.A. Committee, the executives and other representatives of the Association as required. These two bodies shall consult with each other and keep in as close touch as possible, but they will have distinct functions.

B. The Organizing Committee will be responsible for all local arrangements, including facilities for the various sessions and the scientific and commercial exhibits. It will, as previously, extend the official invitations to the various countries and organizations concerned; and it will publish a preliminary informative brochure, handbooks or programs at the time of the meeting, and the transactions of the congress afterward.

C. The International Association group will be responsible for the arranging and running of the scientific sessions, serving in the first place and especially as the Program Committee of the Congress. The representatives who attend the Congress (Office Bearers and Councillors) will, with an equal number of members of the Organizing Committee or of persons chosen by that group, constitute as heretofore the General Council of the Congress after the members assemble for the meeting.

D. The official themes for discussion by the Congress shall be the following six (not necessarily to be dealt with in that order) :

1. Classification
2. Therapy
3. Epidemiology and control
4. Immunology
5. Bacteriology, pathology, biochemistry, etc.
6. Social aspects, including rehabilitation.

Those are the subjects (except for No. 5, which has been added) for which

¹ For this purpose, the membership fee of US\$7 should be remitted to Dr. Huldah Bancroft, Assistant Editor, *International Journal of Leprosy*, 1430 Tulane Avenue, New Orleans 12, Louisiana (U.S.A.). The amount will cover one year's subscription to the *International Journal of Leprosy*, with membership in the International Leprosy Association.

in previous congresses Technical Committees were set up to prepare reports and recommendations for consideration at the final plenary session of each congress.

E. As an innovation, to provide for more deliberate consideration of the several special aspects of leprosy and thus to facilitate and improve the work of the Technical Committees of the Congress itself, the Association has set up, some 18 months before the meeting, Interim Panels each consisting of five or six experts who have paid particular attention to the respective themes. On the initiative of their Chairman, the members of each panel will, by correspondence, endeavor as far as possible to crystallize out views to be presented at the Congress, at which the panel members who attend will play a dual function (see G below).

Seven panels have been set up, one on each of the official themes listed above, and also one to deal with: Evaluation of BCG vaccination in prophylaxis. This subject pertains to both control and immunology, but the separate panel has been set up because of the special emphasis that was given it at the last congress. It is the intention that, at the time of the meeting, this panel will be merged with the two related Technical Committees mentioned.

F. A new feature of the scientific sessions of the Congress will be symposia on the six official topics listed above, to be attended by the full Congress memberships, with no conflicting events to be scheduled during those periods. Each symposium will consist of the reading of papers previously arranged for (i.e., "invited") by one, two, or more members of the corresponding panel, as decided beforehand by the Chairman of the panel representing that group and the Association's executives, with the possibility that a panel may wish to invite some nonpanel member to contribute. These special papers will be allowed 20 minutes each, and possibly more according to circumstances; and after they are read the subject will be open to discussion by the entire assemblage.

G. The other intended function of the panel members who attend the Congress is that they shall constitute the nuclei of the corresponding Technical Committees to be established by the Congress, it being understood that the members of the BCG evaluation panel shall be assigned to either the *control* or the *immunology* committee (according to their own preference). All nominations to the technical committees will be by the General Council of the Congress, subject to ratification by the first plenary session. It is important for successful functioning that these committees be not too large, preferably seven at most.¹

¹ At the Madrid Congress the number was limited to nine, and that number should preferably be reduced; certainly it should not be exceeded. The Council for International Organization of Medical Sciences, in its 1956 Handbook on the Organization of International Meetings, says: ". . . drafting [of a report] cannot be done effectively in a large group; in fact, drafting should never be attempted by groups of more than four or five people."

H. Besides the prearranged "invited" papers for the symposia the program is, as always, open to "proffered" papers offered voluntarily by persons attending the Congress. It is preferred that proffered papers be within the scope of one or another of the official topics, for there will be little time and opportunity for the programming of miscellaneous papers. Consideration of proffered papers is conditional upon (a) their being original and unpublished, and (b) the titles, with abstracts of not more than 200 words, being in the hands of the Secretary of the International Leprosy Association, at 8 Portman Street, London, W.1, England, *not later than August 1st, 1958.*² Similarly, titles and summaries of the invited papers of the panel members for the symposia should also be supplied the Secretary of the Association by the specified date,² to provide ample time for printing by the Organizing Committee in India. Copies of the *papers themselves* should be addressed to the International Leprosy Association, c/o Dr. Dharmendra, Director, Leprosy and Research Institute, Chingleput, P.O. Tirumani, Madras, S. India, so as to be received *before the end of October, 1958.*

I. It is expected, in view of past experience, that it will be necessary to limit "proffered" papers to one per member of the Congress (except perhaps that speakers in the symposia may also be allowed one personal paper each if desired), and that the time for reading will be 10 minutes. Such papers, therefore, should be limited to a length which can be read in that time without hurry, permitting the interpreters of the simultaneous translation system to function satisfactorily; and the chairmen of the sessions will be especially instructed to control that situation. Papers sent in by persons who subsequently are unable to attend will be listed as "read by title, author not present." Proffered papers will be read in sessions other than those devoted to symposia, except that in some instances it may be possible to schedule a few appropriate papers to follow immediately after the discussion of a symposium session.

J. Because of the time to be devoted to symposia, there will be correspondingly fewer "open" sessions for the reading of proffered papers. It is therefore intended to set up one or more screening committees, to appraise the papers submitted and decide which ones should be included in the program for reading, time permitting, and which should be listed to be "read by title." Miscellaneous papers, on subjects not pertaining to the official topics, will be scrutinized especially closely. This system of selecting a limited number of papers to be read before full sessions of the meeting, in the main auditorium, is regarded as better and more satisfactory to all concerned—authors and auditors alike—than would be the programming of all papers submitted and dividing the meeting into sections to be held simultaneously in different places, at least one-half of them without bene-

² Duplicates of titles and abstracts should at the same time be sent to Dr. Dharmendra, Directory, Leprosy and Research Institute, Chingleput, P.O. Tirumani, Madras, S. India.

fit of simultaneous translation. In this respect first consideration will be given papers the abstracts and full copies of which have been received by the Association's Secretary before the specified time limit. Papers received after that date, or brought to the Congress without previous notice which for whatever reason must be read, are liable to be placed on a special program for a separate section or sections.

H. W. WADE
President

E. MUIR
Secretary-Treasurer
International Leprosy Association