

NEWS AND NOTES

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

VII INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF LEPROLOGY

NEW DELHI, INDIA, NOVEMBER 10-16, 1958

(Registration begins November 8th)

As previously announced, the VII International Congress of Leprology will be held in India at New Delhi in 1958. To meet the wishes of a large number of intending members, the dates of the Congress have been changed from 8th to 15th December to *10th to 16th November*, with registration beginning on the 8th. A preliminary Information Brochure will be mailed to all persons and organisations likely to be interested in participation in the Congress. In the brochure will be included an Enrollment Form, and intending members are requested to return that form duly filled at an early date. Further literature will be sent only to those from whom these forms have been received. The following information is extracted from the preliminary Information Brochure.

The conference hall.—All functions of the Congress will be held in the Vigyan Bhavan, Edward Road, New Delhi, which is equipped with facilities for simultaneous interpretation.

Membership fees.—There will be two grades of membership—full and associate. A full member will be entitled to take part in all the functions of the Congress, both scientific and social. An associate member will be entitled to take part in social functions only. The full membership fee will be Rs.50 (\$10.50) for members of the International Leprosy Association and Rs.100 (\$21.00) for nonmembers.¹ The Associate membership fee will be Rs.25 (\$5.25). There will be an increase of 20 per cent over these rates in case of those who do not register their intention to enroll before 1st August 1958.

Official languages.—English, French and Spanish will be the official languages. Arrangements will be made for simultaneous translation in these languages.

Themes for discussion.—The following themes will be included for discussion: (1) classification; (2) therapy; (3) epidemiology and control; (4) immunology; (5) bacteriology, pathology, etc.; (6) social aspects, including rehabilitation.

As a preparatory measure for the scientific sessions, the Council of the

¹ The rupee is worth US\$0.21.

International Leprosy Association has set up a panel for each of the above themes. Each panel will discuss its theme beforehand (by correspondence), and will arrange for its presentation in a symposium at the Congress. The subject of Evaluation of B.C.G. in prophylaxis is to be dealt with by a separate panel, but the findings will be included in Topics 3 and/or 4. This procedure is being introduced in light of experience of the previous congresses, and is expected to remedy certain deficiencies of those meetings.

Categories of papers.—Papers for discussion on the above-mentioned themes will be of two categories, "invited" and "proffered." The invited papers will be those presented in symposia by members of the respective panels. Proffered papers may be submitted by any member of the Congress. The proffered papers will be assessed, and arrangements will be made for presentation of those that are accepted, the others to be read by title.

Submission of abstracts and papers.—Abstracts of not more than 200 words should be prepared in duplicate. *Both copies* are to be sent to the Secretary of the International Leprosy Association, 8 Portman Street, London, W 1, so as to be received not later than 1st August 1958. The *papers* themselves should be addressed to the International Leprosy Association, c/o Dr. Dharmendra, Central Leprosy Institute, Chingleput, South India, so as to be received before the end of September 1958. Abstracts and papers shall be in one of the three official languages. It would be helpful if abstracts in languages other than English should be accompanied by an English translation (in duplicate).

Travel.—New Delhi is served by many airlines linking it with all countries, and many international shipping lines touch Bombay and Calcutta. Members traveling to New Delhi must hold valid passports and transit visas for India. No visas, however, are required for the nationals of Australia, Canada, New Zealand, the Republic of Ireland, and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

Hotel charges.—The charges for board and lodging in hotels in New Delhi are as below:

	<i>Single Room</i>	<i>Double Room</i>
Grade 'A'	Rs 40 to 70	Rs 60 to 85
Grade 'B'	Rs 30 to 40	Rs 50 to 80
Grade 'C'	Rs 12 to 20	Rs 20 to 25

Rates in India hotels include full board and lodging, and normally no reduction is made for meals not taken. The Organising Committee will arrange for hotel reservation if duly notified.

Climate and clothing.—The weather in Delhi during November is generally fine; the average maximum daily temperature is 30°C (87°F) and the minimum 13.9°C (57°F). Visitors should bring woolen clothes.

Social functions.—Social and cultural programmes will be arranged so that they do not interfere with the business and scientific sessions of the

Congress. It is proposed to arrange for sightseeing and study tours after the Congress.

Change of address of the Organising Secretary.—It is requested that note be taken of the change of address of the Organising Secretary. Previously his office was located at the School of Tropical Medicine, Calcutta. It has now been shifted to the Central Leprosy Institute, at Chingleput in South India. The cable address is CENTLEPINS.

Central Leprosy Institute
Chingleput, South India

DHARMENDRA
Secretary,
Organising Committee

LOCAL ORGANIZING COMMITTEE, NEW DELHI CONGRESS

The composition of the Organizing Committee is as follows, listed primarily as of the entities represented with the name of the individuals concerned in early February. This list has been supplied by the Secretary.

Director-General of Health Services (*Chairman*).

Lt. Col. C. K. Lakshmanan, New Delhi.

Directorate General, Health Services (2 representatives).

Dr. B. S. Khurana, Deputy Director-General, New Delhi.

Dr. Y. K. Subramanyam, Asst. Director-General, New Delhi.

Hind Kusht Nivaran Sangh (Indian Leprosy Association) (2 representatives).

Sardar Balwant Singh Puri, Hon. Secty., Red Cross Road, New Delhi.

Mr. T. N. Jagadisan, Organizing Secty., 53-B Edward Elliott Road, Mylapore, Madras 4.

Mission to Lepers (1 representative).

Mr. W. Bailey, Secty. to India, Purulia, Bihar.

Gandhi Memorial Leprosy Foundation (1 representative).

Dr. R. V. Wardekar, Secty., Warha, Madhya Pradesh.

Maharogi Seva Mandal (1 representative).

Shri Manohar Devan, Dattapur Leprosy Colony, Wardha District, Madhya Pradesh.

Indian Council of Medical Research (2 representatives).

Dr. C. G. Pandit, Director, Medical Enclave, New Delhi.

Dr. V. R. Khanolkar, Tata Memorial Hospital, Parel, Bombay.

Indian Association of Leprologists (1 representative).

Dr. S. N. Chatterjee, 32/1 Radhakanta Jew Street, Calcutta 4.

Ministry of Health (1 representative).

Shri A. S. Ray, Under-Secretary, New Delhi.

Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (1 representative).

Shri C. V. H. Rao, New Delhi.

Deputy Financial Advisor, Ministry of Health.

Shri Kirpa Singh, New Delhi.

Secretary, Organizing Committee.

Dr. Dharmendra, Director, Central Leprosy Institute, Chingleput, South India.

I.L.A. TECHNICAL PANELS

PREPARATORY FOR THE NEW DELHI CONGRESS

The following is the list of members of the several technical panels that have been set up by the International Leprosy Association, to facilitate preparation for the scientific work of the VII International Congress

of Leprology to be held in New Delhi in November 1958, as of the time of writing.¹

Classification

- DR. HARRY L. ARNOLD, JR. (*Chairman*), Straub Clinic, Honolulu 14, T.H., U.S.A.
 DR. GUILLERMO BASOMBRIO, Ayacucho 1031, Buenos Aires, Argentina.
 DR. ROBERT G. COCHRANE, 11A Weymouth Street, London W 1, England.
 DR. KANEHIKO KITAMORA, Dept. of Dermatology, University of Tokyo, Motofuji-cho 1, Bunkyo-ku, Tokyo, Japan.
 DR. FRANCISCO RABELLO, Praia do Flamengo 118, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

Therapy

- DR. JOSÉ N. RODRIGUEZ (*Chairman*), Medical Division III, Bureau of Hospitals, Manila, Philippines.
 DR. PAUL BRAND, Christian Medical College Hospital, Vellore, South India.
 DR. T. F. DAVEY, Nigeria Leprosy Service, Uzuakoli, Eastern Nigeria, West Africa.
 DR. LAURO DE SOUZA LIMA, Rua Espirito Santo 319, São Paulo, Brazil.
 DR. ROLLA R. WOLCOTT, U.S.P.H.S. Hospital, Carville, La., U.S.A.

Epidemiology and Control (General)

- DR. JAMES A. DOULL (*Chairman*), Leonard Wood Memorial, 1832 M Street NW, Washington 6, D.C., U.S.A.
 DR. ORESTES DINIZ, National Leprosy Service, Rua Washington Luiz, sob. 13, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.
 DR. JAMES ROSS INNES, British Empire Leprosy Relief Association, 8 Portman Street, London W 1, England.
 DR. C. M. ROSS, Nigeria Leprosy Service, Kaduna, Northern Nigeria, West Africa.
 DR. R. V. WARDEKAR, Gandhi Memorial Leprosy Foundation, Wardha, India.

Immunology (General)

- DR. JOSÉ M. M. FERNANDEZ (*Chairman*), 25 de Diciembre 811, Rosario, Argentina.
 DR. L. M. BECHELLI, Avenida Dr. Arnaldo 925, São Paulo, Brazil.
 DR. HERVE FLOCH, Institut Pasteur, Cayenne, French Guiana.
 DR. H. W. WADE, Culion Sanitarium, Palawan, Philippines.
 DR. KEN YANAGISAWA, National Institute of Health, Kamiosaki-Chojamaru, Shinagawa-ku, Tokyo, Japan.

Evaluation of BCG Vaccination in Prophylaxis

- DR. ROLAND CHAUSSINAND (*Chairman*), Institut Pasteur, 28 Rue du Dr. Roux, Paris 15e, France.
 DR. JACINTO CONVIT, Dos Pilitas a San Carlos #4-3, Caracas, Venezuela.
 DR. RICARDO S. GUINTO, Cebu Skin Dispensary, Cebu City, Philippines.
 DR. E. MONTESTRUC, Institut Pasteur, Fort de France, Martinique, French West Indies.
 DR. NELSON DE SOUZA CAMPOS, Rua Conselheiro Brotero 1379, Apt. 92, São Paulo, Brazil.

Bacteriology and Pathology

- DR. JOHN H. HANKS (*Chairman*), Dept. of Bacteriology and Immunology, Harvard Medical School, Boston 15, Mass., U.S.A.
 DR. K. R. CHATTERJEE, School of Tropical Medicine, Calcutta 12, India.
 DR. H. H. GASS, Vellore Medical College, North Arcot, South India.
 DR. V. R. KHANOLKAR, Tata Memorial Hospital, Parel, Bombay 12, India.

¹ February 1958. At that time there had been a few changes from the list originally distributed.

DR. R. J. W. REES, National Institute for Medical Research, The Tidgeway, Mill Hill, London NW 7, England.

DR. D. S. RIDLEY, Hospital for Tropical Diseases, 4 St. Pancras Way, London NW 1, England.

Social Aspects

MR. T. N. JAGADISAN (*Chairman*), 53B Edward Elliot Road, Madras 4, India.

DR. FELIX CONTRERAS, Moreto 15, Madrid, Spain

DR. F. HEMERIJCKX, Polambakkam P.O., Chingleput District, Madras, South India.

MR. A. DONALD MILLER, Mission to Lepers, 7 Bloomsbury Square, London W 1, England.

NOTES ON AN ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE TOUR
ABOUT THE NEW DELHI CONGRESS

To set up an international congress by correspondence alone is most difficult, even one of relatively modest scale such as ours. With us, success depends upon close and continuous cooperation and understanding between the International Leprosy Association, the continuing element which always is directly concerned with the scientific program, and the local Organizing Committee, different for each occasion, which has primary responsibility for the various other features of the meeting.

If the Association were well-to-do—as it is not—it might, as soon as a local Organizing Committee is appointed, arrange a meeting between leaders of that committee and its own officers for purposes of orientation. Before the Havana and Madrid congresses fortunate circumstances permitted Dr. Muir, or the writer, or both, to visit those cities and confer with the organizers.

For the congress which is to be held in New Delhi next November there seemed to be no chance of any such conference, although there was special need for one because of certain important innovations introduced by the Association. It happened, however, that the writer was compelled in 1957 to spend several months in New York, and thanks to a grant from the Leonard Wood Memorial the return trip was routed via Europe and India. Thus it was possible, in December, to meet with Mr. Muir and certain others in London; with Dr. Chaussinand and Dr. Muir in Paris; with Dr. M. Giaquinto, of WHO, in Geneva; and in New Delhi with Colonel Lakshmanan and Dr. Dharmendra of the local Organizing Committee—the latter in a dual capacity, he being also one of the Vice-Presidents of the Association.

The following notes, more or less informal, are by no means confined to matters not already announced, reiteration being sometimes useful.¹ They are written in late February 1958, some two months after the tour ended. Despite a considerable amount of correspondence since then, not all questions have yet been resolved; but it is expected that by the time this report is seen in print there will be full agreement on all points.

¹ It may be recalled that there are three items dealing with the Congress in the editorial and news sections of the last issue of *THE JOURNAL*, pp. 150-159. The present report contains corrections to be noted.

PREPARATIONS BY THE ASSOCIATION

As previously reported, the Association has undertaken three important innovations in its effort to improve certain features of previous congresses which were subjected to criticism.

1. Several sessions will be devoted to "symposia," restricted to *invited* papers, on the official topics of the agenda—classification; therapy; epidemiology and control; immunology; pathology, bacteriology, etc.; and social aspects, including rehabilitation. These sessions will be open to attendance by all congress members, and for general discussion after the presentations have been completed. Taking perhaps one-half of the time available for the scientific sessions, the symposia will have precedence over the "free" sessions devoted to *proffered* papers—which, it is to be understood, are welcomed as always.

2. It is intended that there shall be prepared beforehand, by correspondence, recommendations for such modifications of the technical reports of the Madrid congress as may be indicated by recent experience. It is hoped in this way to aid the work of the technical committees of the Congress, and to facilitate it. Those committees will have fewer hours for meetings than before because it is intended that they shall not meet during the periods of the scientific sessions, which the experts who compose the committees should attend.

3. Because of the symposia the time available for sessions for the reading of proffered papers will be much more limited than previously. Consequently, all such papers will be screened to decide which shall be actually read and which shall be "read by title." All abstracts received will appear, duly classified, in the pre-Congress Book of Abstracts; and all papers submitted, whether actually read in the sessions or read by title, will be published in the Congress transactions.

To provide for these innovations the Association has set up seven technical panels, each of five persons. Speaking generally, and with exceptions, their two principal purposes are: (a) to prepare, presumably among their own members, for the reviews and/or other papers to be presented in the symposia; and (b) to prepare recommendations for the revision—where, to repeat, revision seems called for—of the current (Madrid) congressional technical reports. Another function of the panels is, (c) to make recommendations regarding the proffered contributions, the abstracts of which are to be sent to the appropriate chairmen.

The panel system as outlined being new to our organization, there is nobody with experience to answer the various questions that have been asked about it. Each panel group will therefore have to work out most of the problems for itself, and it is evident that much will depend upon the initiative and assiduity—not to say diplomacy—of the chairmen. The latter should keep in close contact with the I.L.A. secretary.

It is not to be expected that all members of all panels will be able to attend the congress. However, it is expected that panel members will make their contributions regardless of that consideration. Also that the panel chairmen, in consultation with

the I.L.A. secretary, will prepare the symposia programs whether or not they themselves will be able to attend.

It would seem that each chairman should first envision just what presentations might be made in the symposium and then, after consulting with the other panel members, assign the tasks. Then he (referring to five of the chairmen) would have to correlate the views of his members regarding revision of the technical reports. It should be said that it is by no means necessarily contemplated that *each member* of each panel should read a paper. There would hardly be time for that, if there were need.

At the outset only five panels were contemplated, one for each of the subjects for which there was a technical committee at Madrid, i.e., classification, therapy, immunology, epidemiology and control, and social aspects. Two others, however, were created.

Because of certain developments in the laboratory field, there was set up a panel to deal with pathology, bacteriology, etc. Its main responsibility will be to establish and run its symposium, since there is no corresponding technical report to scrutinize. Whether or not there will be a demand for a Congress committee in this field remains to be seen.

There is one more—so to speak—“unattached” panel, the one on the evaluation of BCG vaccination in prophylaxis—a subdivision of control. It was set up primarily because so much was anticipated from that measure at the time of the last congress, and special scrutiny of accomplishments and expectations in that field was thought to be desirable. It was intended that the findings of this panel (the strictly immunologic questions involved being taken care of by the immunology panel), would be presented in the symposium dealing with control. Objections to that merger have been heard from one source.

Prospective members who plan to submit proffered papers should make special note of the following requirements, which are set forth in a statement by Dr. Dharmendra which appears in this issue.

(1) Informative *abstracts* of not more than 200 words shall be sent, *in duplicate*, to the Secretary of the I.L.A. at 8 Portman Street, London W 1.² Time limit: To be received in London not later than July 31st.

(2) The finished *papers* shall be sent to the International Leprosy Association, c/o Dr. Dharmendra, Central Leprosy Institute, Chingleput, South India. Time limit: To be received there not later than September 30th.

Any members submitting contributions at a later date, or in other ways, may entertain no expectation that they can be considered for the session programs. At most they can only be announced as being “read by title” unless special action in their favor should be taken by the Executive Committee.

The usual further conditions apply to proffered papers: that they shall be new and unpublished contributions: that none will be read unless the author (or one of joint authors) is present; that no member may read more than one paper; that reading time will be limited to 10 minutes; and that the reading must be slow enough to permit proper simultaneous translation. A member who has presented an invited paper in a symposium will not be debarred by that fact from also submitting a proffered paper, under the conditions pertaining to those papers.

² This is a correction of a previous announcement according to which one copy was to be sent to London and the other to India. Dr. Muir will need both copies, one to send to the chairman of the appropriate panel, for evaluation, and the other for use in preparing the official Book of Abstracts.

Panel members who are to read invited papers in (or provide such papers for) the symposia should supply abstracts for inclusion in the Book of Abstracts. The completed papers need not be submitted beforehand, as in the case of proffered papers, but when read they shall be turned over to the secretariat for inclusion in the transactions. It is expected that the chairmen of the panels will see to it that abstracts of the invited symposia papers will be provided, and especially to arrange for himself or other panel members present to read invited papers prepared by members who may be absent.

A feature of every congress is the regular (normally quinquennial) Association meeting. It is too early to consider an agenda for that meeting, but one matter that will be dealt with should be mentioned now. That is the question of where the next congress should be held, in 1963.

At Madrid the Japanese embassy presented a formal invitation for the 1958 congress; but India had priority, particularly since at Havana it had extended an invitation for the 1953 congress. The quinquennial meeting of the Association, that was held in Madrid on October 11, 1953, made note of the Japanese invitation and the following statement was included in the minutes:

"A resolution was passed thanking the Japanese government for its invitation, and expressing the hope that it might be renewed at the time of the next congress." [THE JOURNAL 21 (1953) 556.]

The leprologists of Japan are very keen about this matter, and nearly two years ago began to write about their intention to repeat their invitation, for the 1963 congress. A few months ago word came from Brazil that that country would submit at New Delhi an invitation for 1963. The Japanese are actively forwarding their priority claim, and partly for that purpose Professor Kitamura attended the meeting of the India Association of Leprologists in Gorakhpur last December. While this note was in preparation there was received from him a request that the members of the Association be informed of this matter in this way.

PREPARATIONS BY THE LOCAL ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

The local Organizing Committee has been active, although its operations are somewhat handicapped compared with those of previous congresses because of the country-wide distribution of the members.

No list of members of that committee has heretofore been published—because, it was learned, so many of them are *ex officio* and subject to change of assignment. Already there had been several such changes, and others were expected; even the chairman, Colonel Lakshmanan, would soon retire as Director-General of Health Services (to become associated with the Red Cross); but he would continue to be interested in the Congress. A list has now been supplied, and appears as a separate news item in this issue.

In due course a notice-invitation was given world-wide distribution to officialdom and individuals. Through the Ministry of External Affairs it was sent to foreign countries with which India has diplomatic relations; to a few other countries the invitations were sent by the International Leprosy Association itself. A preliminary notice was also sent to various periodicals (THE JOURNAL 25 (1957) 153-154).

Two important changes of plan have been made since then. (1) Because the meeting time originally set would interfere with Christmas plans of many foreign members, the dates were changed to November 10-16 (registration, however, to commence on Saturday, November 8th). (2) Following noteworthy recent precedents it was intended to have simultaneous translation—a very expensive operation—only in English and French; Spanish has now been added, however, making three official languages.

Of the several publications contemplated, a Preliminary Brochure (the printing much delayed while red tape was being manipulated) is now being distributed widely; the high points of it are in a separate note by Dr. Dharmendra in this issue. It was originally intended that it should appear in all of the official languages, but because to obtain a Spanish translation would involve further delay it was put out in English only. An important feature is an enrollment form to be returned by people who expect to attend.

Next there will be a Congress Handbook, a more detailed product for more limited distribution. Among the individuals receiving the preliminary brochure, only those who will have returned the enrollment form will receive the handbook. Anyone who may have been missed, however, will be sent a copy on request addressed to Dr. Dharmendra.

On registration at the Congress headquarters the members will receive a Book of Abstracts (printed), the program of the sessions (printed or mimeographed), and probably two souvenir brochures.

A question still under discussion is whether the registration fees should be paid in advance, or at the time of registration. The former method, used for the first time at Madrid, caused certain complications, especially as there were (as there will be at New Delhi) three classes of members as regards the fees to be charged. Furthermore, many people have difficulty in getting exchange to remit by mail. The I.L.A. representatives have recommended that the simpler method be adopted, i.e., payment on registration, but the matter is in the jurisdiction of the Organizing Committee.

Since Association members are to be granted a preferential registration fee, it has been agreed that only persons whose names are on the 1958 list of the Association's secretary in London before September 15th will be eligible for the differential. Congress members who are not members of the Association will as usual be solicited for membership, but without advantage with respect to the Congress registration fee.

As usual, remittances for Association memberships, which includes subscriptions to **THE JOURNAL** should whenever feasible be made in U.S. dollars (\$7.00 per year) addressed to the International Journal of Leprosy, c/o Tulane University School of Medicine, 1430 Tulane Avenue, New Orleans 12, La. *Remittances should not* be made in the name of, or be addressed to, any individual for reasons which will appear later. Remittances sent to the United States should reach there by September 1st, so that the Secretary's office in London may be notified by September 15th.

There has been some discussion about associate members. Full membership, of course, depends primarily on medical or some other scientific qualification, although the Executive Committee is expected to provide that status for certain other workers in the leprosy field, especially outstand-

ing social workers. The associate members are thought of primarily as members of the families of Congress members, persons who have "come along for the ride." Most such members have been of that category in the past, with no interest in the sessions of the congress, but some were decidedly interested. Associate members who are sufficiently interested to attend any scientific session may do so, provided they do not participate in votations (if any) or in discussions unless invited to do so by the chairman of the session. Associate members are expected to attend the formal opening and closing ceremonies, but not the plenary business sessions.

The meeting place, the Vigyan Bhavan (Home of Knowledge), was found to be a fine new building, built by the Indian government specifically for international meetings—large-scale meetings, be it said.

The main auditorium, with a seating capacity of over 700 on the main floor alone (total 1,081), reminiscent of the League of Nations' Hall in Geneva, would swallow our ordinary sessions. However, there are two "Commission Rooms," each with 255 seats on the floor, either of which would probably suffice for those sessions. They have the advantage that they are provided with microphones on the delegates' tables, to facilitate discussions. All of the meeting places (even the five "Committee Rooms" which seat only some 50 people each) are fully equipped for simultaneous translation. With these and other facilities, all done in handsome style, our congress has "never had it so good" before.

Detailed information about hotels will appear in the handbook, but it may be noted that at a recent International Red Cross Conference the delegates were put up in the Ashoka and the Janpath hotels. The former is first class, new and international-modern, and the latter was said to be similar.

Both are government owned, built to provide visitors to the capital with amenities not found in even the best of the old-style hotels of India. The room to which I was assigned at the Ashoka, a very comfortable single one with individual air conditioner and refrigerator (the only inconvenience being that it was a young bicycle-or rickshaw-trip from the main elevators), cost Rs 45 (\$9.50) per day, including meals taken in the dining room. Anyone indulging in the full menus for long would have to be right active to avoid putting on weight. A point that may be of interest to some is that the visitor cannot indulge in even the mildest of alcoholic beverages in the dining room, and even in his own room he would not be supplied any such drinks on a Tuesday or a Friday.

A somewhat important word is to be said about visas, based on personal experience. The Organizing Committee has been assured that the somewhat elaborate immigration formalities will be lightened for persons known to be coming to the Congress, but what can be done in that respect apparently depends at least in part on the kind of visa one has. The intended visitor should insist to the issuing consulate that a *transit* visa is wanted, not an *entry* visa. With the latter would be encountered, on departure, regulations about vaccinations and income-tax clearance that do not pertain to the former.

GENERAL MATTERS

The organization of the Congress itself will be along the same lines as previously [see THE JOURNAL 21 (1953) 485-487]. There will be a General

Council composed of equal numbers of I.L.A. councillors and of members of the local Organizing Committee, the total being an odd number because Dr. Dharmendra represents both entities. Out of that group there will be an Executive Committee, partly *ex officio* and partly chosen by the General Council.

Here arises a sort of hen *vs.* egg question, since there always have to be executive committee activities before the General Council can convene and formally create that committee. Until that happens, the persons who will be *ex officio* members of it informally assume such responsibilities as are necessary, in consultation with others concerned.

Regarding the technical committees, since they are agencies of the Congress itself the inclusion of the I.L.A. panel members who attend is a matter of agreement. Their numbers will be completed by the usual Congress action.³ These committees will not meet during the periods of the scientific sessions, as has been said.

A recurrent and thorny question, first brought up formerly at Madrid, concerns the manner of votation in the plenary sessions. Probably nobody could devise a system that would be acceptable to everybody. However, by a considerable majority the Council of the I.L.A. has favored the system used by the United Nations and its agencies, and also by the Pan-American Leprosy Conferences, i.e., one vote per national delegation or group instead of one for each Congress member. This matter is still under consideration.

Examination of the congress issues of THE JOURNAL published after the Cairo, Havana and Madrid meetings reveals that in each instance about 35 per cent of the members were of the host country—a full one-third of the votes. The most distant or least well-heeled countries tend to be correspondingly poorly represented, regardless of the extent of the leprosy problem and activities in them. This is held by many to tend strongly to give a regional flavor to conclusions of the congresses, liable to unfortunate changes from meeting to meeting.

The Council for International Organizations of Medical Sciences (CIOMS) has, as previously, made a grant to the I.L.A. for aid in its part of the preliminary organization, and is prepared to make another grant to help a few selected young leprosy research workers of India or nearby countries to attend the congress. These very helpful contributions should be generally appreciated.

The World Health Organization plans to hold, during the week after the Congress adjourns, an Inter-Regional Conference (involving three WHO regions) composed largely of its own personnel and representatives of the governments in the area. The primary purpose is to discuss the application, in the various countries concerned, of the information reported at and the recommendations of the Congress.

—H. W. WADE

³ The total number on each committee should be as small as is consistent with adequate representation of experience. As previously stated (preceding issue, p. 155, ftnt.), the CIOMS has recommended that such committees should not exceed four or five persons. The limit adopted at Madrid was nine, and that number should certainly not be exceeded. In fact, it would undoubtedly be better if possible to reduce it, say to seven.

MAILING LIST OF FONTILLES DESTROYED

It has been announced by Dr. Felix Contreras, medical director of the leprosarium at Fontilles, Alicante, that the mailing list of the quarterly periodical *Fontilles* has been destroyed by flood. That list was part of the records kept in the office which the leprosarium maintains in the city of Valencia, and during the recent flood to which that city was subjected the documents were lost.

Dr. Contreras and others concerned in the publication of *Fontilles* are endeavoring to reconstruct the mailing list by memory, but they feel no assurance that it can be complete. They therefore ask that anybody who has received that periodical in the past, but has not received it recently should inform the editorial office, Revista Fontilles, Sanatorio Fontilles, Alicante, Spain.