

## NEWS AND NOTES

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

### NEWS FROM INDIA

Letters from Dr. Dharmendra, Organizing Secretary of the coming New Delhi Congress, have told about recent decisions taken by the Organizing Committee, or recommendations made by its subcommittees. The following are of more or less general interest.

The late adoption of Spanish as one of the official languages of the Congress has led to difficulties. As previously said, the copy for the preliminary brochure was prepared in both English and French, the two languages that it was originally thought would suffice for the Congress, but then Spanish, also, was made official. To get a Spanish translation made would further postpone publication of the already-delayed brochure, and it was consequently not attempted. Therefore, to avoid an apparent discrimination between French and Spanish, both official for the Congress, the French version was dropped and the brochure appeared in English only.

Subsequently the Editorial Subcommittee met to consider various matters concerning the preparation of the Congress Handbook, the next item on the publication program. Considering the time required, once the material for the Handbook is prepared, for getting a Spanish translation and for printing in Spanish (which, is a much less familiar language in India than French), the subcommittee recommended that the Handbook be printed in English only. It was pointed out that in two recent international congresses held in India, one of the Red Cross and the other on tuberculosis, all of the literature was printed in English only. We have not learned of the final decision in the matter, if, indeed, it was considered at the meeting of the Organizing Committee which was held on March 13, 1958.<sup>1</sup>

At that meeting the most important decision taken was that, contrary to the recommendations of the International Association representatives, the voting in the plenary sessions shall, as in previous congresses, be on an individual basis. It was suggested that if it is considered necessary to make a change in the method, a decision should be made at the time of the congress with respect to future congresses.

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<sup>1</sup> As was stated in an editorial note in the last issue, we are not at the present attempting to confine news items to the period indicated by the dates of the issues. It is too important that news of the coming congress get to our readers as early as possible, for us to be governed by considerations of consistency in that respect.

On the other hand, the Organizing Committee agreed to the suggestion that registration fees should be paid at the time of registration at the meeting, for one reason to avoid complications arising with respect to people who send in their money in advance and then find that they cannot attend. Therefore there need be no prepayment and, contrary to previous announcement, there will be no question of a penalty-increase of fees after a certain date.

Of other decisions reached the only one of any consequence to the general membership is that (a) the formal inauguration will be held on Monday, November 10th, although registration of members will begin on the 8th and continue the next day, and that (b) it is regarded as unnecessary to have a formal closing session at the end of the Congress. There will, of course, be the usual final plenary session, on Sunday the 16th. The quinquennial meeting of the International Leprosy Association will also be held on that day.

By agreement, a copy of the enrollment form, widely distributed with the preliminary brochure, is run in connection with this note—slightly modified in accord with the recent decision that prepayment of fees is not required—for the benefit of interested readers who may not have received that brochure. This form can be cut out without mutilating the magazine to a noticeable degree.

Mention may be made, although it is not to be an open meeting, of the fact that a post-Congress Inter-Regional Conference of the World Health Organization is to be held for four days, November 17-20, starting the day after the closing of the Congress. The regions to be represented are the South-East Asian one (India and four other countries), the Western Pacific one (12 countries or territories), and the Eastern Mediterranean (Iran and Pakistan only).

From the International Leprosy Association comes the news that it may be possible to arrange, with a small fund provided by the CIOMS, and with the cooperation of the Mission to Lepers, to send a very limited number of members of the Congress to Vellore, in South India, for a few days of a working seminar with Dr. Brand and associates in the rehabilitation of deformed cases. Anybody who would be interested in making such a trip, from the point of view of either the surgery or the physiotherapy that is carried on there, should communicate at once with Dr. E. Muir, Secretary-Treasurer of the Association, at 8 Portman Street, London W 1, England.

#### ABOLISHMENT OF PREVENTORIA IN PARAGUAY

The following is a translation of a resolution adopted on April 12, 1957, signed by Enrique Zacarias Arza, Minister of Public Health and Social Welfare of Paraguay, supplied by Dr. Lauro de Souza Lima.

WHEREAS, the Director of the Department of Leprosy has reported that it is no longer necessary to maintain preventoria for children of leprous parents, and

VIIIth INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF LEPROLOGY

New Delhi, India

November 10-16, 1958

(Registration begins November 8th)

ENROLMENT FORM

This form should be filled in and returned to the  
Organising Secretary, VIIIth International Leprosy Congress,  
Central Leprosy Institute, Chingleput, South India.

Entries not required should be struck out.

NAME .....  
(In block letters, family name first)

ADDRESS .....

CITY ..... COUNTRY .....

I shall attend as a full member:

(a) I am a member of the International Leprosy Association (Registration fee Rs. 50/-)

(b) I am *not* a member of the above Association (Registration fee Rs. 100/-)

I shall attend as an associate member (Registration fee Rs. 25/-)

I shall represent .....  
(Country, organization, etc.)

I shall be accompanied by ..... associate members.

I shall require hotel accommodation at Delhi, Grade **A**  **B**  **C**

I shall *not* require hotel accommodation at Delhi

Signature .....

CONSIDERING, that the control of leprosy has changed fundamentally because of the advent of the drugs called sulfones and because of prevention by BCG;

That the institutions called "preventoria" stigmatize the interned children as "children of lepers," causing them to suffer profound psychic disturbances; and

That from the technical point of view there is no reason whatsoever to intern these children in special services, since they are healthy children;

IT IS RESOLVED:

Art.1.—The functions of the Preventoria "Santa Teresita" or "Luis Zanotti Cavazoni" as an institution for the isolation of children of leprosy parents shall be terminated.

Art. 2.—The institution shall be converted into a home for children of both sexes, up to 6 years of age, of whatever origin.

Art. 3.—This institution shall be named "Hogar Infantil" (Home for Infants).

Art. 4.—The children who are at present interned shall be disposed of as follows:

(a) Family reintegration (with their own parents or collateral relatives);

(b) Placement in families with assistance from charitable institutions and the government;

(c) Placement in homes for children, or asylums;

(d) Placement in schools and colleges where they can be admitted as residents;

(e) Placement in military institutions.

Art. 5.—A maximum period of one year is set for the complete solution of the problems arising from the closing of the preventorium.

Art. 6.—Copies to be supplied to those concerned for compliance and record.

#### LEPROSY AT THE PACIFIC SCIENCE CONGRESS

The Ninth Pacific Science Congress was held in Bangkok, Thailand, November 18-30, 1957, with 533 scientists from over 40 foreign countries and more than 300 local scientists participating. Leprosy was discussed on November 28th under the chairmanship of Dr. J. N. Rodriguez, of the Philippines.

Dr. Ramon Miquel, Senior WHO Adviser, Leprosy Project, Thailand, read a paper entitled "Leprosy control in Thailand by the public health route." He stated that a program has been prepared of which the first stage, the operational phase, is now being applied (under his direction) in Khon Kaen. The second phase, consolidation, following later, will lead to the third phase, maintenance, or integration of the leprosy work into the general public health work. He concluded that promising results can be achieved by approaching the general public in a right way. In the ensuing discussion Dr. J. N. Rodriguez spoke, emphasizing the new era in leprosy control since the introduction of the sulfone drugs. He also stated that leprosia have their role in an integrated leprosy program.

A second paper was read by Dr. Ken Yanagisawa of the Department of Tuberculosis, National Institute of Health, Tokyo, Japan, on the immunologic relationship between leprosy and tuberculosis. He discussed the correlation between lepromin and tuberculin reactions in guinea-pigs sensitized with tubercle bacilli; in guinea-pigs sensitized with human leprosy bacilli; in healthy individuals living in a nonleprosy area; and in leprosy patients.

Continuing, he mentioned the effectiveness of BCG vaccination against murine leprosy, and investigations under way to test whether BCG vaccination can prevent manifestations of human leprosy. —E. A. ETTINGER

## PERSONALS

DR. GUILLERMO BASOMBRIO, director of the leprosy service in Argentina, has been appointed chairman of a committee to study the new methods of antileprosy campaigns with a view to possible reforms of the existing law on the subject.

DR. ALFREDO BLUTH, of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, died suddenly on September 29, 1957, after the second day of a meeting of the Brazilian Association of Leprologists, which thereupon adjourned.

DR. OSMARIO BORGES DE MACEDO, after a hard four days examination, was appointed Livre Docente of Leprology of the medical school of the Federal District University in Brazil. The committee of examiners consisted of Professors H. C. de Souza-Araujo, Francisco Rabello, J. Ramos e Silva, Hildebrando Portugal and Rubem Azulay. —[H.C. de S.-A.]

DR. T. FRANK DAVEY, of Uzuakoli, Nigeria, according to a note in *Without the Camp*, has the distinction of being not only a physician-leprologist but also an ordained Protestant minister.

DR. ALBERT DUBOIS is to retire as director of the Institut de Médecine Tropicale Prince Léopold, Antwerp, as of Jan. 1, 1958, to be succeeded by Dr. P. G. Janssens. Dr. Dubois will be in the Belgian Congo from January to August 1958.

DR. JOSÉ M. M. FERNANDEZ has completed his assignment as rector of the University of Rosario, Argentina, and will hereafter concentrate on his duties as head of the Department of Dermatology of the medical school and resume his studies in leprosy.

DR. R. JINGU, director of the Oku-Komyo-en National Leprosarium on Nagashima Island, died of cancer on August 10, 1957.

DR. EUGENE R. KELLERSBERGER, secretary emeritus of the American Leprosy Missions, has received an Alumni Gitation from Washington University, St. Louis, for "outstanding achievement and service [in the field of tropical medicine, and especially leprosy] which reflects honor upon the University."

DR. KANEHIKO KITAMURA, director of the Department of Dermatology of the University of Tokyo School of Medicine, has also been serving for a term as director of the University Hospital.

DR. OCTAVIANO DE LOIOLA PEREIRA, medical officer in charge of the Central Leprosarium "Dr. Froilano de Mello" at Macosana, Goa, Portuguese India, has been presented by the Portuguese government with a silver medal in recognition of distinguished overseas service. Previously he had been honored by the government with the Military Order of Sant' Iago.

SR. MARIE-SUZANNE, of the Laboratoire de Recherches sur la Lèpre, of Lyon, France, died on November 15, 1957, three days after having been operated upon for a brain tumor.

DR. REIDAR S. MELSOM, for many years national leprosy officer in Norway, has resigned from that position because there are so few patients, and has accepted appointment in the public health service in the Distriktslaege of Lillestrøm, near Oslo.

DR. JACK W. MILLAR, for some two years with the Leonard Wood Memorial and now commanding officer of the Naval Medical Research Unit No. 1 at Berkeley, Calif., is a member of the international physiological expedition to study the physiologic effects of Antarctic environment on the Navy personnel who have spent time there in connection with the IGY studies.

DR. KENSUKE MITSUDA retired as director of the Nagashima Aisei-en National Leprosarium on August 31, 1957, but will continue working in the laboratory of the

institution. He was succeeded by DR. S. TAKASHIMA, previously director of the Suruga National Leprosarium in Shizuoko Prefecture.

DR. YUKICHI SATANI, emeritus professor of dermatology of Osaka University, who had simultaneously filled various other positions including the directorship of the Leprosy Institute and the editorship of *La Lepro*, died of heart disease on September 23, 1957.

DR. SALOMON SCHUJMAN, who sometime ago with several other Argentinian physicians visited Communist China and other countries, has announced that he expects to spend more than a year doing leprosy work in "a foreign country."

MR. H. SHIMOMURA, president of the Japanese Antileprosy Association (Tofu-Kyokai), died on December 9, 1957.

DR. LAURO DE SOUZA LIMA, having completed a year's assignment under WHO with the Department of Health of Paraguay, has returned to São Paulo, Brazil, where he is in charge of the Department of Leprology in the School of Medicine of Sorocoba, (in Santos.)