

REPORTS OF MEETINGS

Reports of meetings that deal with leprosy are printed, so far as possible, when submitted by proper persons in suitable form.

MADRAS LEPROSY CONFERENCE

A conference of medical and social workers in the Madras, India, leprosy campaign was held there on the third and fourth of July, 1933, under the chairmanship of Major-General Sprawson, C.I.E., I.M.S.¹ The Conference was attended by forty-one workers of the Presidency representing Governmental and other agencies, and also by Drs. E. Muir and I. Santra of Calcutta. The report of the Conference has been published in part in the October issue of *Leprosy in India*, and that part is here condensed.

One object of the Conference was to discuss the resolutions of the Calcutta Conference (summarized in the October, 1933, number of the *JOURNAL*), and their applicability to the Madras Presidency. These resolutions were accepted with certain minor modifications.

The Conference decided that the Madras Provincial Leprosy Board would be replaced by a Madras Presidency Leprosy Relief Council, which should be a branch of the British Empire Leprosy Relief Association and should be in close touch with the various district Leprosy Relief Councils. It would be a purely advisory body. His Excellency the Governor should be invited to be the President, the Surgeon-General should be the Chairman, and the members should include the Director of Public Health, the chief leprosy officer, and representatives of missionary, social, governmental and private entities.

The formation of two different kinds of leper colonies was considered: (a) large collections, several hundreds of cases living together under supervision of a medical man and forming a separate and almost self-supporting community, and (b) voluntary colonies of cases living just outside their own villages. In this connection:

¹ General Sprawson, at that time Surgeon-General of Madras, is now Surgeon-General of the Indian Medical Service, replacing Major-General Megaw, retired.

The importance of voluntary segregation is fully recognized as the best means of preventing the spread of infection; but it is also realized that great caution must be exercised in conveying this to the minds of villagers at the present stage or there is danger of alarming simple folk and of further concealment of the disease. The dissemination of propaganda is the best present means of combating the disease, combined with the collection of statistics as to the true number of leprosy cases. It is hoped that eventually the pressure of opinion amongst the villagers themselves will be strong enough to induce cases of leprosy to segregate themselves outside their villages.

The Conference was decidedly of the opinion that school children should be inspected periodically to detect early cases, and school medical inspectors should receive instruction to enable them to diagnose such cases.

It was agreed that closer coöperation between leprosy clinics and leprosy settlements is advisable, and that the settlements should admit infective cases from the clinics. Coördination of work between Government and missionary leprosy workers should be accomplished. To regulate admissions there should be definitely established relations on a territorial basis between the clinics and settlements. Officers in charge of clinics should apply to the superintendents of the settlements with which they are in liaison and should send patients for admission only when called for. Discharged cases from the settlements should be kept under observation and treatment at the clinics nearest to the patients' villages, and periodic reports should be made to the settlements concerned.

Regarding the provision of accommodation for out-patients needing temporary hospitalization the following suggestions are made: Small infectious sheds attached to small mofussil hospitals, if unused for long, may be converted into leprosy wards for emergency cases, as of perforating ulcers and severe lepra reaction. Small sheds especially for this purpose should be provided, and private generosity should be stimulated to provide such sheds where possible. Beds in city hospitals should be reserved for urgent leprosy cases.

After much discussion it was generally agreed that, although many cases of leprosy recover and do not recur, it is advisable not to employ the phrase "leprosy can be cured" as a general statement. If the phrase is used it should be qualified, and care should be taken not to raise too exuberant hopes early in the treatment. The necessity for prolonged treatment should be brought home to patients who should at the same time be imbued with hope and encouraged to persevere and be regular in the treatment.

The rôle of social workers in the leprosy campaign was considered to be: To make connection and promote coöperation between doctors

and patients, and to bring the patients to the clinics; propaganda, with house to house visiting and encouragement of the clinic patients; compiling of statistics; classification of infected houses in villages and keeping up village cards; raising funds for the leprosy campaign. The functions of health officers, medical officers, honorary workers are touched on.

The Conference wished it to be made widely known, especially in schools and factories, that leprosy is found in two forms, infective and non-infective, and that patients in the latter condition may, while under treatment, be allowed to attend their schools or their work since they are not dangerous to their comrades.

JAPANESE DERMATOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

At a joint congress of the Japanese Dermatological and Urological Associations, held in Tokyo in April, 1933, many papers concerning leprosy were read. A few of these were the following:

IKUZO TOYAMA and KAZUO TANAKA. The complement fixation reaction and precipitation reaction in leprosy serum.

TAKASHI HASIMOTO, SHUICHIRO KINOSHITA, and SEICHIU YAMAGUCHI. Experimental transplantation of the human leprosy nodule in the Japanese monkey (*Macacus fuscata*); Second report.

TETSUTARO TSUCHIDA. Animal experiments with *Mycobacterium phlei* and its serological study.

M. OTA, S. SATO, T. ISHIBASHI, and O. MIURA. New methods of treatment of leprosy, especially the intravenous injection of an emulsion of the ethyl esters of *Hydnocarpus anthelmintica*.