

## NEWS AND NOTES

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

### FIRST INTER-AMERICAN CONFERENCE OF EXPERIMENTAL LEPROLOGY

On June 14-16, 1961, there was held in Buenos Aires, organized by the Office of Skin Diseases Control of the Ministry of Social Welfare and Public Health, the First Inter-American Conference of Experimental Leprology. The following reports were read:

DR. LUIZ BOJALIL (Mexico): Classification of the mycobacteria.

DR. LÁZLÓ KATÓ (Canada): Behavior of the reticuloendothelial system in experimental murine leprosy.

DR. RUBEM AZULAY (Brazil): The value of murine leprosy in experimental leprology.

DR. WALTER HADLER (Brazil): Experimental chemotherapy of murine leprosy.

DR. NORBERTO OLMOS CASTRO (Argentina): Experimental hypersensitivity in leprosy.

DR. MENY BERGEL (Argentina): Experimental transmission of leprosy infection to laboratory animals.

Other communications were contributed, among which were the following:

DR. RAÚL HOUSSAY (Argentina): Polyarthropathy in rats injected with mycobacteria.

DR. ELEANOR ALEXANDER-JACKSON (United States): Lesion developing after inoculation of newborn rats with a pleomorphic organism isolated from the blood of a leprosy patient.

DR. J. OLIVEIRA ALMEIDA (Brazil): Serological studies in leprosy.

DR. FELIX WILKINSON *et al.* (Argentina): Results of inoculation of *M. leprae* to animals fed with prooxidant diet.

DR. KARL MASON and MEI YU DJU (United States): Inoculation of *M. leprae* in animals under special dietary conditions.

DR. Y. T. CHANG (United States): Growth of *M. leprae murium* in mouse bone marrow cultures.

DR. JAIME WHITELAW (Uruguay): Comparative value of different medications in leprosy.

DRS. J. OLIVEIRA ALMEIDA and LUIS M. BECHELLI (Brazil): Serological evaluation of antileprosy therapy by quantitative complement fixation reaction.

DR. LUIS M. BECHELLI (Brazil): Contribution to the study of immunoallergic reactions between tuberculosis and leprosy.

—E. D. L. JONQUIERES

We are also informed that a committee of chairmen of the conference (Drs. Azulay, Bergel, Bojalil, Chang, Hadler, Kató and Olmos Castro) recommended the following:

(1) The need of creating an Inter-American Information Center to facilitate the exchange of research projects in progress and to make this information known to all leprosy research centers of America and to others who may so desire.

(2) For such a purpose the following institutions offered their services to those who are interested.

ARGENTINA. (a) Instituto Nacional de Microbiología (Buenos Aires), Dr. Ignacio Perosky. Bacteriology of leprosy. (b) Dispensario Dermatológico de la Dirección de Lucha Dermatológica (Tucumán), Dr. Norberto Olmos Castro. Lepromin antigen for the investigation of hypersensitivity in leprosy. Antigen for the Olmos Castro-Bonatti serum test. Information concerning leprosy hypersensitivity phenomena. (c) Laboratorio de Investigaciones Leprolóicas (Rosario), Dr. Meny Bergel. Prooxidant diets and their connection with experimental leprology.

BRAZIL. (a) Instituto de Leprología del Serviço Nacional de Lepra (Rio de Janeiro), Dr. Rubem David Azulay. Pathology problems in leprosy. (b) Cátedra de Microbiología e Inmulología de la Facultad de Medicina (Ribeirao Preto), Prof. Dr. J. Oliveira Almeida. Serology of leprosy. (c) Departamento de Histología de la Facultad de Medicina (Ribeirao Preto), Dr. Walter A. Hadler. Chemotherapy of murine leprosy.

CANADA. Department of Physiopathology, Institute of Microbiology and Hygiene, University of Montreal (Montreal), Dr. Lázló Kató. Physiopathology of murine leprosy.

UNITED STATES. National Institute of Health (Washington, D.C.), Dr. Y. T. Chang. Pharmacologist, Leonard Wood Memorial; Guest Scientist, National Institutes of Health. Culture of *M. leprae* and *M. leprae murium*.

MEXICO. Escuela de Medicina de la Universidad (Mexico, D.F.), Prof. Dr. Luis F. Bojalil. Mycobacteria; supply of strains and classification.

(3) This suggestion aims at facilitating the exchange of informations during the progress of investigations and at avoiding the repetition of unnecessary exertions.

(4) Experiments with unpublished negative results should be sent to Dr. Lázló Kató, Montreal, Canada, who will distribute them among the leprosy experts.

(5) The possibility of holding conferences of like nature every two years; to study the possibility of holding the next one in Mexico City.

#### JAPANESE LEPROSY ASSOCIATION

34TH GENERAL MEETING, KYUSHU UNIVERSITY, MAY 21-22, 1961

A report of this meeting, mostly in the Japanese language, appears in a recent issue of *La Lepro* [30 (1961) 97-145]. The list of papers, which is duplicated in English, comprises two special discourses:

TODA, Tadao. Several problems on the leprosy bacilli.

KITAMURA, Kanehiko. General aspect of the histology of inflammatory skin lesions,

and also a symposium on the Chemotherapy of Leprosy, presided over by Yoshinobu Hayashi:

TAKEDA, M. In the field of ophthalmology

NAMBA, M. In the field of dermatology

IDE, J. In the field of surgery

YOKOTA, T. The effect

Individual papers numbering 53 are listed, of the usual wide variety, from ultramicroscopic studies to various phases of treatment. Abstracts of all but 5 of them make the bulk of the report, but they are not "available" to a nonreader of the language.

#### INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON HEALTH AND HEALTH EDUCATION

The World Health Organization has distributed an announcement of an International Conference on Health and Health Education, to be held in Philadelphia, Pa., on June 30-July 7, 1962, under the auspices of the International Union for Health Education in collaboration with WHO.

The purpose of this Conference is to consider some of the major health problems which confront man in his total environment and to discuss the contribution that health education can make, particularly in enlisting more effectively the participation and support of people in health programs. A comprehensive and timely program is planned

for the conference. "Man in His Environment" is the broad theme for the scientific program.

It is hoped that the Conference will be well attended by leading health officials and professional workers such as physicians, health education specialists, experts in environmental sanitation, nursing, etc., as well as social scientists, leaders in education, social work and other professions.

Further information about this conference can be obtained on request from the secretariat of the conference at 1962 International Conference on Health and Health Education, 800 Second Avenue, New York 17, New York.

#### RULES FOR HOME TREATMENT IN CALIFORNIA

In 1953, Dr. Herman Gray proposed regulations, published in *California's Health* on October 31, 1953, under which home treatment of leprosy patients would be permitted in California. Shortly afterward Dr. Rosemary Brunetti dealt with the same matter, drawing up a lengthy leprosy control program for the state. At the Carville Conference held last November, Dr. Gottlieb Orth, of the California Department of Health, spoke (according to *The Star*) as if there had not been much change of Gray's plan, which is predicated on continuous treatment of the patient on an ambulatory basis, in the 7 years since then. The rules, according to a letter from Dr. Gray, who is now a medical missionary in Northern Nigeria, were essentially as follows:

*Tuberculoid cases.*—No restrictions, although the patients should handle children as little as possible. It is not required, however, that a mother with this form of the disease be separated from her children.

*Lepromatous cases.*—These should usually be hospitalized at Carville. Under unusual circumstances, early cases may be treated at home provided they comply with modified isolation procedures:

(a) There should be no children under 18 in the household, and young children should not visit there.

(b) Only a minimal number of adults may remain in the household. There may be no boarders, and no visitors should eat or sleep in the house.

(c) The patient should not shop in the stores, nor should he work. The no-work restriction may be relaxed in that the patient may engage in an occupation in which his contacts with other people would be minimal.

(d) The patient must be under continuous sulfone treatment.

(e) Restrictions can be lifted after 12 monthly bacteriologic examinations have been negative.

Dr. Brunetti's modifications of these regulations, with reference to the foregoing items and additional to them, were as follows:

*Tuberculoid cases.*—If possible, children should be removed from the household until the skin lesions have regressed and faded (usually 6 months to 1 year). During reactions, precautions as for lepromatous cases.

*Lepromatous cases.*—Advanced cases to go to Carville for expert care. Early and moderate cases may remain at home, under the following rules:

(a) As in (a) above, except that occasional visits by children are permitted provided they have no physical contact with the patient.

(b) As (b) above, with the further provisions that the patient should have his own separate bed, and that sharing of the bathroom and dining facilities should be restricted to the adult family members.

(c) Regarding the no-work provision of (c) above, the patient either should not work or should be limited to types of work involving minimal contact with other people. (Occupations such as food handling, selling in a store, work on an assembly line in a factory, and work involving contact with children are prohibited. Work involving little contact with other people, such as farming, gardening, or truck driving is permitted.)

(d) The patient must be a cooperative person, complying with these regulations and visiting his physician at regular monthly intervals. (A further condition is that the attending physician must agree to see the patient at least once a month.)

(e) After six months of negative skin smears the restrictions may be lifted, but sulfone treatment must be continued.

*Indeterminate cases.*—No precautions save removal of children from the home until the skin lesions have faded (6 months to 1 year).

## NEWS ITEMS

**United States:** *International cooperation centers.*—Under a scheme the purpose of which is “to advance the international status of health services through cooperative enterprises,” to initiate which the Congress appropriated \$5,000,000, support is being given through the National Institutes of Health to five cooperative centers. One of them, long since established and active, is in Cali, Colombia, in collaboration with Tulane University. The grant which was the occasion for the story in a New Orleans newspaper seen, was the one to Louisiana State University of \$2,090,588 to establish a center for international training and research at San José, Costa Rica, the program for which is said to include leprosy. The other three such centers are established by the University of California, in Malaya; Johns Hopkins University, in Calcutta, India; and the University of Maryland, in Pakistan.

*Unusual leprosy clinic in Los Angeles.*—It has been announced, the *Carville Star* reports, that in February a new outpatient clinic was to be opened in Los Angeles. It will be operated once every two weeks—every other Wednesday afternoon—for 2 hours, and a charge of \$1.00 per clinic visit will be made and medicines and ancillary services will be charged for at reasonable rates. It was hoped, it is said, “that the clinic will be more acceptable to private patients” who need consultations, and that it will result in improvement in case finding in southern California.

*Leprosy research in Chicago.*—It is reported that a new center of leprosy research has been opened at the Billings Hospital of the University of Chicago, under the charge of Dr. Olaf K. Skinsnes, professor of pathology at the university since 1959. Before that he was at the University of Hong Kong, and interested in the Hay Ling Chau leprosarium there. The studies, to include bone changes in leprosy and the immunology of the disease in animals, is supported by a grant from the U.S.P.H.S.

**Argentina:** *Meeting of homage to Basombrio.*—This meeting (*Jornadas*), under the auspices of the Sociedad argentina de Leprología, was held in Resistencia, Chaco, August 25-27, 1961, the second such meeting held primarily in homage to the late Dr. Guillermo Basombrio. In three sessions (the third of which was held in Corrientes, the transfer having been made by yacht) some 23 papers were read. Resolutions of local interest were adopted.

**Venezuela:** *Postgraduate course in leprosy.*—This course, given under the auspices of the School of Public Health of the Central University, and financed jointly by the Ministry of Health and the Pan American Sanitary Bureau, was to extend from October 3, 1961 to February 3, 1962. Six participations were registered for the required full-time attendance, 2 from Peru, 1 from Ecuador, 1 from Bolivia, and 2 of Venezuela. The course