

## OBITUARIES

CORA TURNEY BURGESS

Friends of Mrs. Perry Burgess, wife of the president emeritus of the Leonard Wood Memorial, and Secretary of the Board of Directors of the Memorial were shocked to learn of her death on June 10, 1962, at the Cleveland Clinic, Cleveland, Ohio, at the age of 51. It occurred a few days after taking ill at their home Erie Vista, Geneva-on-the-Lake, Ohio.

The Burgesses were married in 1937 and the honeymoon was spent on a world trip, visiting leprosy institutions and workers. After that, she participated, with Mr. Burgess, at the leprosy congresses held at Cairo (1938), Rio de Janeiro (1946), Havana (1948) and Madrid (1953). Mr. Burgess having retired the previous year she did not attend the Tokyo Conference (1958) but they were sent greetings by the assembled delegates to the Congress.

For a full twenty-five years Mrs. Burgess was actively engaged in the anti-leprosy campaign. She prepared appeals for funds to support the Memorial's educational and scientific work and for this purpose used her skill as a photographer to obtain illustrative material in many parts of the world. At the Havana Congress she received a commendation for her exhibit of clinical photography.

Mrs. Burgess enjoyed the friendship of hundreds of the world's prominent health officials and leprologists and also of large numbers of patients of every race and creed. Her warm personality and helpful attitude endeared her to all whom she met.

Mrs. Burgess is survived by her husband, her mother Mrs. Etta Mae Turney, her two children by a previous marriage, Perry Burgess, Jr. and Mrs. Robert Lynn, and by six grandchildren.—J. A. DOULL

## DR. RUDOLPH L. MAYER

Dr. Rudolph L. Mayer, research microbiologist and world authority on antihistamines and allergies, died June 23, 1962, at the age of 67, at the Clinical Center, National Institutes of Health. He had been ill since October. Dr. Mayer had been with the Leonard Wood Memorial here since 1960, and at the time was engaged in electron microscope studies at the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology.

Born in Colmar, France, Dr. Mayer received his medical degree from the University of Freiburg in 1920, and did postgraduate work in chemistry and dermatology at Freiburg, Berlin and Breslau where he was on the university faculty from 1925 to 1932. In 1933 he joined the drug manufacturing firm of Rhone-Poulenc in Paris. Driven out by the Germans in 1943, he was aided by American friends who knew of his pioneer work on the sulfa drugs, and he came to the United States.

With Dr. Charles Huttner in 1946 he discovered pyribenzamine for the relief of hay fever sufferers. In 1958, he and a team at Ciba Pharmaceutical Products, Inc., Summit, N. J., where he worked from 1943-1960, discovered SU-1906 (now known as Ciba 1906), a compound widely used in the treatment of leprosy.

Dr. Mayer had published more than 250 scientific papers dealing with allergy, tuberculosis and leprosy. He is survived by his wife, Catherine T., of the home address, 3212 Chestnut St., N.W., Washington 15, D.C.—[From the Washington, D.C., *Post Times Herald*, supplied by Mr. Stanley Stein.]

## SARDAR BALWANT SINGH PURI

The death on June 3, 1961, of Sardar Balwant Singh Puri, late Hon. Secretary of the Indian Council of the British Empire Leprosy Relief Association (changed in 1950 to Hind Kusht Nivaran Sangh), was announced in an obituary (note by Dharmendra) in a recently-received issue of *Leprosy in India*, from which the following account is taken.

Balwant Singh rendered valuable service in connection with Lord Reading's fund appeal which led to the formation of the Indian Council of BELRA in 1925, and later as Hon. Secretary of the organization for 33 years, until 1958, during which time *Leprosy in India* had its beginnings. He is credited with being chiefly responsible for developing in India research, training and the educational campaign regarding leprosy. India was fortunate in having a man of his caliber, wisdom, and breadth of vision at a time when leprosy was most imperfectly understood, and was relegated to utter neglect and pessimism.

Besides his various activities in connection with leprosy, he was actively associated, for 41 years until the time of his retirement in 1958, with the Indian Red Cross Society, for the last 17 years as its Secretary General.