

H. W. WADE, M.D., EDITOR EMERITUS

For more than thirty years Doctor Wade edited the INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF LEPROSY. These have been exciting years in world history, and also years of great strain. Time and the wear and tear of responsibilities have sapped the strength of many men devoted to good causes. One such cause is leprosy control. Wade has long been a dedicated worker in that field, but now the erosions of time have forced him to lighten his burdens.

It is a fitting and pleasing task in this issue of THE JOURNAL to make some note of what Wade has accomplished in that long epoch. Chance and circumstance in his early years took him to the Philippines, a region of endemic leprosy. There, from a rather lonely outpost on the island of Culion, he has furthered understanding of one of mankind's oldest, most chronic, and most destructive of diseases.

Well trained originally in the technics of pathology, Wade has contributed, through personal research, to the development of many presently-accepted concepts of the nature and pathogenesis of leprosy. But it is no reflection on his own research to say that his greatest influence has come through the stimulus he has given to leprosy studies throughout the world, as the founder and editor of the INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL. Through this medium, and through a wealth of association with leprosy investigators, Wade has multiplied, many times over, the value of the accomplishments of his own hands.

Born a New Englander in 1886, Wade's ambitions were turned to medicine by fortunate circumstances. While in a humble post at the Boston City Hospital, he learned the arts of a tissue technician in the laboratory dominated by the eminent histopathologist Frank B. Mallory. As a technician (then called a "microtommist") he went, in 1906, to Montreal with one of Mallory's assistants, Charles W. Duval, when Duval was appointed pathologist to the Montreal General Hospital and Lecturer on the faculty of the McGill University College of Medicine. There Wade began the study of medicine, serving meanwhile as Demonstrator in Histology. Later, in 1909, when Duval went to New Orleans as Professor of Pathology and Bacteriology at Tulane, Wade accompanied him, still as technician, but serving also as Student Demonstrator until he earned his M.D. in 1912. For three years, during which he had many opportunities for observations in the field of tropical medicine, he remained as a faculty member of the New Orleans school and Resident in Pathology in the Charity Hospital of that city.

In 1915, in which year he was married to Dorothy Paul of New Orleans, an opportunity that attracted Wade opened in Manila. Departure for Manila was postponed for some time because of the finding of a bomb in the coal bunker of the old Empress of Japan, on which the Wades were scheduled to sail, but on New Year's day they departed

from Vancouver for the land that has been their home for nearly fifty years. In Manila, where he had been appointed Pathologist-Bacteriologist in the Bureau of Science, the familiarity with leprosy he had gained in New Orleans and at Carville, meager by Wade's account, led to an early appointment as member, and later as chairman, of the Leprosy Examining Committee of the Bureau of Health.

It is of interest to note that in this very early period Wade devised the "scraped-incision" method of making skin smears for the diagnosis of leprosy, a method that has since become standard throughout the world.

In 1918 he was appointed Professor of Pathology and Bacteriology in the School of Medicine and Surgery of the University of the Philippines. While there he was appointed to a small group that was to be sent to India to observe Sir Leonard Rogers' treatment of leprosy with the sodium salts of chaulmoogric acid (Alepol). That plan, however, fell through because of Sir Leonard's retirement. Thereupon a Leprosy Investigating Committee was created, with Wade as a member, to investigate the use of the ethyl esters of chaulmoogra oil, which proved superior to the oil itself.

At about that time Major General Leonard Wood became Governor General of the Philippines. Originally a physician himself, he took a special interest in the leprosy situation, and under his auspices, and with special appropriation, the Bureau of Health sent a much enlarged staff of physicians and nurses to Culion, with Wade as Pathologist and Acting Chief Physician, to reorganize its medical services and introduce the new form of chaulmoogra. The patients, a little too optimistically, renamed one place in the colony "Plaza Esperanza." After two years the duties of Chief Physician were turned over to J. N. Rodriguez. Later Rodriguez transferred to Cebu, where he began an investigation of the epidemiology of leprosy, in which Cebu later became a world-renowned center. C. B. Lara became chief physician at Culion, a post in which he remained, making a special study of Culion-born children, until his retirement. Wade himself returned to his chosen work, pathology, in which field he has been continuously active ever since.

The material available for study at Culion was so abundant, and so much of it was going to waste, that Governor General Wood was persuaded to undertake to raise in the United States additional funds for research. His first attempt failing, Mrs. Wade volunteered to go there to undertake a direct appeal, and she went with Wood's blessing and some financial assistance. After numerous vicissitudes, including the death of Wood, there resulted the creation of the Leonard Wood Memorial for the Eradication of Leprosy (American Leprosy Foundation). In that task, which lasted from 1925 to 1930, Mrs. Wade was assisted by Perry Burgess, who had resigned from his previous posi-

tion with a fund-raising firm to engage in the project. Wade himself, from Culion, advised as to the planning for the use of the fund being raised. The history of that development is a story in itself, which cannot be related here.

The year 1931 was a key year in Wade's relationships in leprosy work. Early in that year he helped to organize, and in the end chaired, the Leonard Wood Memorial Round Table Conference on Leprosy held in Manila, an international meeting of select membership which the Leprosy Advisory Commission of the League of Nations



*Photo by W. H. Feldman*

H. W. WADE

attended. Resigning from the government service to become the first Medical Director of the Memorial, but maintaining his headquarters at Culion, Wade then made a round-the-world trip, the first of several such journeys, during which he visited leading leprologists and leprosy institutions in Japan, India, and Africa, among other places. Also, from England, he visited certain outstanding persons in Europe. In

the course of that trip he recognized a fact little appreciated previously, the high prevalence and importance of the tuberculoid form of leprosy, now universally accepted, along with lepromatous disease, as one of the two "polar" types of this disease.

The Manila conference founded the International Leprosy Association, and planned for the publication of a new journal as its official organ, the INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF LEPROSY. Five international congresses of leprology have been held since then under the sponsorship of the Association, in Cairo in 1938, in Havana in 1948, in Madrid in 1953, in Tokyo in 1958 and recently (1963) in Rio de Janeiro. In all of these except the last, when ill health prevented his attendance, Wade was a prominent figure. He was president of the Association from 1946 to 1963, when he resigned. He has presented the results of his own researches, and out of an abundant experience with leprosy in many parts of the world has always taken an active part in the coordination of knowledge, recognition of types, and classification of the disease.

In 1932, with a subsidy provided by the Leonard Wood Memorial, he began the production, as Editor, of the INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL, which occupied a considerable proportion of his time thereafter. He did not cease, however, from research. Recognizing the relations of pathology and immunology, as early as 1937 he began investigations of the unique and important Mitsuda reaction, in which he is still interested. His studies of that reaction in dogs led to the designation of this induced reactivity, by certain others, though not by himself, as the "Wade phenomenon." His improvement of the Hayashi method of preparing lepromin is widely used.

Wade has continued his study of the types and varieties of leprosy. With Rodriguez he first reported, in 1940-1941, on "borderline" leprosy, a form still imperfectly understood and the subject of much discussion. Recently he has been studying what he has designated the "histoid" form of lepromatous leprosy. His improvement of technics for staining the leprosy bacillus in tissue sections was especially useful in that study. Electron microscope study of that condition, which he has stimulated, promises significant findings.

Inevitably over the years, many honors as well as many responsibilities have come to "Prexy" Wade, as he has long been known affectionately by his many friends. To list these without their background would be to lose much of their significance. A few should be mentioned briefly, however. First is his election in 1946, after the death of E. Marchoux, of Paris, and his repeated reelection, as President of the International Leprosy Association, until in 1963 he made it known that he would not accept another reelection. Then he was made President Emeritus. He has been succeeded by a distinguished younger man, José M. M. Fernández, of Argentina. Wade served, in 1952 and 1959, as chairman at the two meetings of the Expert Committee on Leprosy

of the World Health Organization. Many medical societies have made him an honorary member, and conferred special awards upon him.

Wade retired as Pathologist of the Leonard Wood Memorial in 1959, to become Pathologist Emeritus. He and Mrs. Wade have chosen to remain at Culion, where he has an apparently inexhaustible amount of material for study. The Leonard Wood Memorial has continued an appropriation which permitted him to continue work on *THE JOURNAL*, and has a grant from the National Science Development Board of Manila for the prosecution of his studies.

Too much could not be said for Wade's long service as Editor of *THE JOURNAL*. A meticulous and exacting editor, he has never let the minutiae and the mechanics of that work cloud the scientific acumen with which he has reviewed every manuscript that came to his desk. He has always been a constructive editor, a helpful adviser, and in not a few cases a real (if unnamed) participant in reports that have appeared in *THE JOURNAL*. Intolerant of inaccuracy, of lack of clarity, and of insufficiency of evidence, and forthright and outspoken in constructive criticism, he has brought many a presentation, inadequately prepared, from an inferior state to one of excellence. A fighter for his own convictions, he has always been willing to meet opposing views head-on out of the wealth of his own experience. He will be remembered for many achievements, but not least as one of the most dynamic medical editors of our time.

*THE INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF LEPROSY* will have the benefit of his continuing assistance, as a contributor of editorials, stimulator of correspondence, and collector and abstractor of scientific information on leprosy. He has long been noted for his discrimination and care in these phases of his editorship, and it is to be hoped that readers of *THE JOURNAL* will have the good fortune to share in his wisdom for many years to come.

—ESMOND R. LONG

#### IMPORTANT NOTICE

Dr. J. Ross Innes, secretary-treasurer of the International Leprosy Association, has recently announced that all communications to him on Association business should be addressed to his residence, 8 Hillcrest Avenue, Pinner, Middlesex, England, and not to the office of the British Leprosy Relief Association as in the past.

In explanation he says (personal communication) that Belra had generously and willingly provided office space and help since the organization of the Association. However, its own statutory work has become so great over the years that office space was at a premium, and it was a kindness to relieve the pressure. This was done voluntarily, for Belra had not objected. In removing the Association office to his residence, he obtained the voluntary assistance of his wife, Mrs. Elizabeth Innes, M.A., to deal with the secretarial minutes.