NEWS AND NOTES

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

LEPROSY SERVICE OF NORTHERN NIGERIA

The Northern Nigeria Leprosy Service, initiated by Dr. C. M. Ross in 1953, has become the largest one in the world. Now more than 320,000 patients are on the treatment registers in about 1,600 outpatient clinics, 69 treatment villages and 14 settlements.

The provincial settlements are maintained by various missions with Government support. Missions also maintain about one-fourth of the outpatient clinics. They employ 8 full-time and some part-time doctors for leprosy work.

The Government and Native Authority leprosy work is mainly carried out by the Nigerian Medical Auxiliary staff. Dr. D. L. Leiker, specialist for the Region, is the only Government Medical Officer in the field. In November 1963 two more leprosy medical officers were appointed, thanks to generous aid of the Swedish “Save the Children Fund.” Two more medical officers, one to be engaged in training and supervising a province, the other to supervise field work in a part of the country, are urgently needed.

OICHA MISSION LEPROSARIUM

This leprosarium, a part of the African Inland Mission station of Oicha lying in the heart of the vast, dark Ituri forest in the northeast of the Republic of Congo, is the subject of a story in a recent issue of the News of the American Leprosy Missions, which helps support the leprosarium. It is particularly noteworthy because it maintained “business as usual” during the period of turmoil that followed the acquisition of independence; its American missionary medical staff stayed at their posts, and all patients remained under treatment.

In a recent interview Dr. Carl K. Becker, the medical director, who with his wife established the place in 1936, paid tribute to the “faithful and resourceful Congolese patients who . . . during this turbulent period, helped maintain the medical program when communications were interrupted and normal sources of supply were cut off.” The African medical staff, consisting of 20 trained patients, live within the sprawling 1,100-acre compound, in which there are more than 1,000 resident patients.

Although the resident patients are for the most part treated in leprosy dispensaries, there is much integration of the leprosy program with the general medical program. Cases needing special care or surgery are treated at the general hospital, as are 500 noncontagious outpatients. Last year Dr. Wayne Meyer, formerly at Nyankanda in Burundi, was added to the leprosarium staff to supervise treatment
and surveys; he is also undertaking research in the pathology of the disease.

Because the physiotherapy program with leprosy patients at Oicha has been so successful, the Congolese government is now sending polio cases there. The government has already sent several of its technicians there for specialized training in leprosy, and one of these trainees is said to be in charge of the official leprosy program in Kivu Province.

LEPROSARIUM AT KATHMANDU

The modern leprosarium, built on land given for the purpose by His Majesty, King Mahendra of Nepal, is nearing completion in Kathmandu. The entire cost of building the leprosarium and of its maintenance is being met by the Mission to Lepers.

At present 80 patients suffering from various ailments are hospitalized. The new medical block, costing about Rs 240,000 Nepali currency, (US $30,000), was opened by His Majesty on November 23, 1963. The purpose is to provide temporary hospitalization for all persons suffering from trophic ulcers, neuritis, lepra fever, etc., and to deal with intercurrent diseases like tuberculosis, filaria, hookworm, etc., which are common in this part of the world. Rev. W. H. Russell, General Secretary of the Mission to Lepers was present at the opening of this important leprosy center.—F. J. CHANDY.

REPORT OF FIRST INTERAMERICAN CONFERENCE ON EXPERIMENTAL LEPROLOGY

The Publication Committee of this Conference, held in Buenos Aires in 1961, has announced publication of the report of the meeting. Dr. Armando Zavala Saenz was chairman of this committee.

According to the index of this report, it is a book of about 160 pages. It includes 8 relatos, and 9 comunicaciones or their summaries. The topics (translated when necessary and with some rearrangement) and authors are:

Importance of murine leprosy in studies of experimental chemotherapy of leprosy, by W. A. HAUZIA (Belo Horizonte).
Experimental transmission of the leprosy infection to laboratory animals, by M. B. RIOS (Rosario).
Classification of mycobacteria, by L. F. BAZAIRE, and J. CARNOX (Mexico, D.F.).
Electron microscope study of leprosy skin lesions, by T. ISHIKAWA (Carmes).
Hypersensitivity of leprosy, by N. OLMOS CASTRO (Trinidad).
Lesions developing after inoculation of newborn rats with a pleomorphic organism cultivated from a leprosy patient, by E. ALEXANDER-JACKSON (New York).
Contributions to the study of the immunologic relationships between tuberculosis and leprosy, by L. M. Bichelli (São Paulo).

Reactivity of leprous sera in complement-fixation reactions using lipids from tubercle bacilli and cardiolipins as antigens, by J. Oliveira de Almeida (Ribeirão Preto).

Evaluation of antileprosy therapy in lepromatous leprosy by the quantitative complement-fixation reaction, by J. Oliveira de Almeida and L. M. Bichelli (São Paulo).

Inoculation of *Mycobacterium leprae* in rats on a proximant diet, by F. F. Miranda, P. Ribeiro de Brito, and J. Gago (Buenos Aires).

Inoculation of *M. leprae* in animals under special dietary conditions, by K. L. Pinkson and M. Y. Day (New York); summary.

A comparative study of amyloidosis in two separate groups of patients with lepromatous leprosy, by R. C. Williams, R. S. Gathright, E. Calkins, G. L. Fink, and J. Emara Reber (Boston, New York, Carville, and Guadalajara); summary.

The importance of hematophagous arthropods in the transmission of leprosy, by H. C. de Souza-Andrade (Rio de Janeiro); summary.

It is explained in the announcement that for economic reasons this report cannot be distributed without charge. The price is U. S. $5.00, with 20% discount to members of the Conference, and comparable discounts for orders in quantity accompanied by payment.

**WORLD LEPROSY DAY**

The Eleventh Annual World Day for Leprosy Sufferers was observed on January 26th, 1964. Originated by Raoul Follereau, of France, in 1956, when he instituted the Order of Charity, World Leprosy Day is said to have been recognized by heads of state and public health officials in more than 100 countries and territories.

Last year, according to the News of the American Leprosy Missions, hundreds of Protestant churches in the United States joined with the Missions in observing this day, and this year many more were expected to participate.

Material for use in this observance—“bulletin inserts, sermon suggestions, background materials, and other program aids”—may be obtained, gratis, from the American Leprosy Missions, 259 Park Avenue South, New York, N. Y., 10016. This offer doubtless holds for future observances as well.

**NEW REGULATIONS FOR LEPROSY CARE IN VENEZUELA**

In its struggle against disease medical science is continually gaining new experience to be applied in practice, teaching and administration. When new medical concepts or practices are adopted in Venezuela in connection with hospitals or other establishments for medical and social aid, the appropriate innovations should be made by amplifying existing services or by giving them better conditions under which to work.

The practice of using rooms with one, two and four beds that has gradually been replacing the old system of large hospital wards, is an innovation that makes it possible not only to isolate patients when necessary, but also to group them, when desirable, according to clinical conditions.
The gradual improvement of living conditions and the raising of the social, economic and cultural levels makes health education possible wherever the ground has been prepared by successful campaigns against the endemic diseases that formerly were causes of disability and of death. The sanitary education of the people is in itself a great aid in bringing about the changes that medical progress requires.

On these considerations, and considering further that leprosy is now a disease of declining prevalence, which in the light of present day knowledge is amenable to ambulatory treatment by effective drugs, without danger to the community, and considering, moreover, that international congresses have pronounced themselves against the isolation of the patients in special institutions and have recommended that they be treated in general hospitals, it has been resolved by the Department of Public Health, Ministry of Health and Social Assistance of Venezuela:

1. That the hospitals and other health centers under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare be used for the temporary confinement of leprosy patients during their acute periods, as well as for their ambulatory treatment and the rehabilitation that they may require through physical therapy or surgical intervention.

2. That the medical directors with their Advisory Technical Commissions in all hospitals where antileprosy services are to be established shall coordinate their plans and projects with those of the Division of Sanitary Dermatology and provide for one to six beds and also the auxiliaries necessary for diagnostic work.

3. That the physicians in the service of the Division of Sanitary Dermatology shall be members of the Consulting Medical Corps of the hospitals with antileprosy services and as such direct the specific medical treatment as well as the general treatment used in leprosy.

It is recommended by this Department that the specialists of the Division of Sanitary Dermatology be consulted, besides, in matter of leprosy, and also in cases of leishmaniasis, mycoses and onchocercosis, so as to establish a closer cooperation between that Division and the hospitals. (From a circular from the Director of Public Health of the Ministry of Health and Social Assistance of Venezuela and the Chief Medical Officer, Division of Sanitary Dermatology, Caracas.)—J. Convit.

[Dr. Convit writes that under the new policy the existing leprosaria of the country will gradually disappear and patients will be treated under the director of specialists in regional health centers and general hospitals.—Editor]

Pan American Sanitary Bureau Seminar on Leprosy

Under the auspices of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau and with the cooperation of the Government of Mexico, a Seminar on Leprosy was held in the city of Cuernavaca, Morelos, Mexico from
12-19 August 1963. The purpose of the seminar was an interchange of ideas and experience in the planning, programming and organization of leprosy control activities in the countries of the Western Hemisphere. In attendance were representatives from Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Trinidad and Tobago, the United States of America, Uruguay, Venezuela, British Guiana, Martinique, and Suriname, as well as representatives from the Pan American Sanitary Bureau, Regional Office of the World Health Organization for the Americas. The officers of the Seminar were: President, Dr. Miguel E. Bustamante (Mexico); Vice-President, Dr. J. M. M. Fernández (Argentina); Rapporteur-General, Dr. Orcestes Díaz (Brazil); Secretary-General, Dr. Rupert Huerta (PASB/WHO).

Working parties were established to deal with the planning, programming and organization of leprosy control activities and the professional education and training of personnel.

Special lectures as follows were given:

Dr. Philip E. Sartwell, Professor of Epidemiology of the School of Hygiene and Public Health, Johns Hopkins University: "General Concepts of Epidemiology and Their Application in the Planning, Programming, and Organization of Leprosy Control Programs."

Dr. Abraham Horwitz, Director, Pan American Sanitary Bureau, Regional Office of the World Health Organization for the Americas: "Health Programming and its Relationship to Economic Development."

Dr. Fabio Londono, Chief of the Leprosy Section, Ministry of Public Health, Republic of Colombia: "The Process of Organization in Health Activities."

Dr. José M. M. Fernández, Professor of Dermatology, Faculty of Medical Sciences, National University of the Litoral, Argentina: "Professional Education and Training of Personnel."

Conclusions and recommendations were formulated and approved at a final plenary session 19 August. These must be read in their entirety for full information, but the following are noted here as of special interest.

In view of the relation of health and economics, participation of physicians in local and national planning is essential. Proper administration for this purpose requires improvement in methodology. Leprosy should be considered a health problem, and its control, as such, should be based on the general principles applying in other diseases. Proper planning requires full knowledge of the magnitude and nature of the problem, and related information on the efficiency of control and use of available resources. This, in turn, demands research. For
understanding, uniform terminology and appropriate statistical procedures are indispensable.

With regard to programming, the Seminar held that the concept of public health has priority over any individual clinical concept: the two concepts are, however, complementary. Proper public health programs require a quantitative definition of objectives, with schedules in relation to units of time. Early diagnosis and prompt care are essential, complemented by rehabilitation and continuing health education.

Since health is an indivisible whole, proper organization of an antileprosy campaign demands its inclusion in the structure of general health services, and coordination at all levels with pertinent official and private institutions. The directive medical personnel in leprosy control programs should be trained in public health as well as leprology. The services of general practitioners, however, should be integrated in the field programs.

The education and training of personnel are considered basic elements in a leprosy control program. Leprology should be taught in schools of medicine, schools of public health and institutions where paramedical personnel is trained. The conclusions of the Seminar on Leprosy in Belo Horizonte, Minas Gerais, Brazil in 1968, were reaffirmed.

Finally the Seminar recommended that governments assign proper funds for the above named activities and that the Pan American Sanitary Bureau expand its cooperation with governments in relation to these activities.

LEPROSY RESEARCH AND DIAGNOSTIC CENTER

Information has been received from Dr. R. G. Cochrane about the Leprosy Research Unit in London, and the tutorial classes in leprosy under the auspices of the Leprosy Research and Diagnostic Centre, which were established in 1953 when Dr. Cochrane became technical medical advisor to the American Leprosy Missions, Inc. The Research Fund was set up through the generosity of the latter. With the funds made available Dr. Cochrane has created a Diagnostic Centre and Histopathological Register covering some 5,000 skin sections and has called attention to the unique opportunity offered, through the material available, for the training of personnel who will be concerned in leprosy problems, in the field or at home, particularly with respect to patterns of leprosy as a world problem.

Dr. Cochrane has furnished the following information concerning the tutorial classes projected.

Facilities available.—(1) A clinical demonstration in colored transparencies with descriptive catalog; (2) a laboratory and photographic section containing over 4,400 pairs of microscope slides; and (3) colored photomicrographs and black and white
clinical photographs from all over the world. There is a small reference library including the more important leprosy journals, and there are also more than 2,000 reprints relating to leprosy.

Teaching—A preliminary briefing can be arranged for up to three students at one time, and private tutorials by special arrangement, for doctors, for nurses and for technicians. Opportunities for studying clinical material can be arranged, and a set of notes for students will be provided for each student.

Cost—The following contributions are suggested: Doctors, attending 10 a.m.-1 p.m., for 1 week, £3. 3. 0 (approx. US $8. 42); further weeks pro rata; nurses, same schedule, £2. 2. 6 (approx. US $5. 88); technicians, by special arrangement.

Registration—As space is limited, application should be made to Dr. R. G. Cockrane, 57a Wimpole Street, London, W. 1, England. Advance notice of the desired dates would be appreciated.

Diagnostic services—This service remains freely available for any who wish to send material for diagnosis and advice.

FORTH INTERNATIONAL COURSE OF LEPROLOGY FOR MISSIONARIES AND ASSISTING HEALTH PERSONNEL

Dr. Felix Contreras of the Sanatorio de Fontilles, Alicante, Spain, has informed THE JOURNAL that a course with this designation will be held at the Sanatorio de Fontilles from August 6 to September 15, 1964. The course is organized by the Sovereign Military Order of Malta and the Colonia Sanatoria of San Francisco de Borja, of Fontilles, with the collaboration of the Institute of Spanish Culture. Eminent professors from several faculties of medicine in Spain will participate. Some 29 themes are scheduled for presentation, including pathology, epidemiology, dermatology, and general concepts on leprosy, with intensive consideration of the disease in its etiologic, pathogenetic, clinical and social aspects.

Those interested in attendance and desiring further information should write to La Soberana Orden Militar de Malta, Via Condotti 68, Rome, Italy, or to the Colonia Sanatoria de San Francisco de Borja, Alicante, Spain.

JAMES A. DOULL AWARDS

During the VIIIth International Congress of Leprology, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in September 1963, Mr. C. L. Crowther, president of the Leonard Wood Memorial, announced the James A. Doull Awards. They have been created to honor the memory and the significant scientific contributions of the late James A. Doull, who served for 15 years as medical director of the Leonard Wood Memorial.

The purpose of the awards, whose donors remain anonymous, is to stimulate bacteriologists, biochemists, and others to undertake intensified investigations, including the exploitation of the newer knowledge and techniques, in order that the cultivation of M. leprae and M. lepromaumium may be achieved. Inability to cultivate these organisms
has been a source of frustration for bacteriologists from the time these two species of the genus Mycobacterium were discovered.

In view of the possibility that successful solution of the cultivation problem may occur in two steps, provision has been made for two separate awards.

1. For cultivation of three strains of *M. leprae varium*, the rat leprosy bacillus, with fulfillment of Koch’s postulates:
   (a) A certificate, appropriately designed and inscribed for this purpose, and
   (b) A cash award of US$500.00.

2. For cultivation of *M. leprae* fulfilling the requirements of the 1963 Report of the Panel on Bacteriology and Immunology:
   (a) A commemorative plaque, and
   (b) A cash award of US$1,000.00.

It is proposed that the respective awards will be made during a subsequent meeting of the International Leprosy Association while in session for an International Congress of Leprology. The Award Committee consists of Dr. R. J. W. Rees of London; Dr. Charles C. Shepard of Atlanta, Georgia; and Dr. John H. Hanks of Baltimore, Maryland. Those desiring more precise information on the Awards may communicate with Mr. C. I. Crowther, Leonard Wood Memorial, 79 Madison Avenue, New York, N. Y. 10016.

**NEWS ITEMS**

**England: Coordination of work of missions.—**The first step toward development of a cooperative strategy in their work, it has been announced, was taken in the appointment of a Steering Committee representing the Mission to Lepers and the American Leprosy Missions. Six persons, chairman by Dr. Paul W. Brand, have been appointed to this committee, the purpose of which is to devise ways of coordinating the work of both agencies in certain areas of service, to increase its efficiency, quality, and scope.

**United States: American Leprosy Missions seminar at Carville.—**The fifth annual leprosy seminar sponsored jointly by the American Leprosy Missions and the USPHS, will be held at Carville, La., April 2-8, 1964. Lectures will include the staff of the institution and outside specialists. Missionary medical and paramedical personnel of all denominations, Christian national workers, and public health workers from this country and abroad, are expected to attend the week of leprosy orientation courses. Last year 45 participants representing 18 mission boards from 17 countries attended the seminar. Students of leprosy during the year 1963, according to the Carville Stars, were attended by 71 groups, with a total of 1,671 participants. These included 465 professionals, 263 medical students, 566 students of nursing, 215 lay students, and 132 laity. In total, 78 days were spent in these activities, conducted under the supervision of the Training Officers. (This educational work, unparalleled in any other leprosy institution, must have constituted a serious interruption of the professional work and research of the Carville staff.)

**Peace Corps in leprosy work.—**Eleven Peace Corps members were at Carville in January, according to the *Star*, for a two-weeks training course designed to prepare them for work in the Los Negros leprosarium in Bolivia. This group is intended to re-
place an earlier group of six members who went to Los Negros in an attempt to transform the place from a primitive colony to a modern hospital, after a group of American missionaries gave up the undertaking. The new group includes registered nurses, an occupational therapist, a person with building skills, and an administrator. They will cooperate with the full-time Bolivian doctor now at Los Negros, and they hope to recruit Bolivian nurses. It is reported that some of the Peace Corps workers assigned to the Allahabad Agricultural Institute, India, which was founded by Dr. San Higginbottom, are volunteering their services in the Naini Leprosarium attached to the institution. Their services are said to include nursing care, organizing English classes, and starting a poultry farm. Two Peace Corps personnel are working at the Cullen Sanatorium in the Philippines, teaching in the Catholic school within the colony.

India: Seminar on Leprosy in Chingleput.—A seminar on leprosy, held at the Central Leprosy Teaching and Research Institute, Chingleput, Madras, July 12-13, 1963, under the joint auspices of the Institute and the Madras State Leprosy Coordination Committee, brought together specialists in the allied disciplines, dermatology, venerology, pathology, bacteriology, immunology, serology and biochemistry. Subjects discussed included reactions in leprosy and the maintenance of records in field work. Dr. Dharmandra opened the first session with a discussion of the terminology of the leprosy reactions.

This was followed by a series of papers on various features of the leprosy reaction, with extended consideration of its clinical manifestations, histopathologic characteristics, and its treatment.

The second session, devoted to field programs, was convened by Dr. V. Elambaran, State Leprosy Officer, Tiruchirapalli, under the presidency of Prof. T. N. Jagadish, Organizing Secretary, Hind Kushi Niram Sough. The session was attended by field workers from the Belgian Leprosy Centre, Puthambakkam; the Schofield Research Institute, Karigiri; the German Leprosy Centre, Chettipat, North Aroth; and medical officers of the Hind Kushi Niram Sough. Discussion centered on the suitability of forms used by government institutions in Madras State.

Gambia: Annual Report of Gambian Leprosy Control Project for 1963.—During 1963 the Gambia Central Project has concentrated on procedures in field work, which are carried out without a proper leprosy headquarters, or hospital or laboratory facilities. The report, made by J. A. Sussan, Medical Officer for Leprosy, outlines the administrative division of the country for leprosy control, the clinics available, and the extent of the problem. In November 1963 a previously proposed feature of the program, a Propaganda-Treatment Survey of all school children in Gambia, was commenced. Among 1657 children examined in the first few weeks, 39 cases of leprosy were seen, including 25 already under treatment. In summarizing results of the general program to date and prospects for 1964, Dr. Sussan noted that 2000 patients have been brought under treatment in the Project. He emphasized, however, the great need for proper headquarters. Without this provision it will be impossible to carry out special medical and surgical procedures, laboratory services, and necessary isolation accommodations where new drugs can be tested. Also a rehabilitation program should be instituted.

Ethiopia: Report of Second National Leprosy Conference of Ethiopia.—The report of the Second National Leprosy Conference of Ethiopia, held at Addis Ababa, 30 November-2 December 1963, has recently been received. The report carries a foreword by His Excellency Ato Abebe Retta, Minister of Public Health, and is edited by Dr. K. F. Schaller. Ten working sessions were held, in addition to an inaugurating session which laid the background for the meeting. The “working sessions” included discussion of the following subjects: (1) the epidemiology of leprosy in Ethiopia and neighboring regions, (2) certain immunological relationships, (3) laboratory practice, (4) surgery, and (5) health education. Several of the sessions were devoted to summarization of the principles discussed.
WHO: International Leprosy Training Course at Bamako.—In November 1963 a training course for French-speaking doctors was held at the Institut Pasteur, Bamako, Mali. This course, according to information received, was attended by 15 participants, 7 from Mali, 2 each from Madagascar and Iran, and 1 each from Dahomey, Guinea, Egypt, and Cambodia. Lectures were given by Drs. Hasselt ( Dakar), Beddoli (WHO HQ), Carayon (Marcelles), Languillon (Bamako), Bichet (Hauté Volta), Rötberg (Brazil), and Sansatery (Bamako). The demonstrations in field work were organized by Dr. Périer (Bamako). (Use of this note, received in January 1963, was withheld pending permission of local governments to publish certain other information, which permission was not forthcoming.)

PERSONALS

The Rev. Robert Bradburn, United Presbyterian missionary at Lampang, Thailand, and governor of the Lampang Leprosy Foundation, was recently awarded the Fifth Class of Our Most Noble Order of the Crown of Thailand for his “humanitarian services industriously rendered to the social welfare work of this country.” Mr. Bradburn recently completed for American Leprosy Missions a survey of government and mission leprosy hospitals in Southeast Asia.

Dr. Paul W. Brand, recently of the Christian Medical College at Vellore, India, has been appointed to the staff of the Mission to Lepers as Director of Orthopedic Work. It is said that although Dr. Brand will be based at the London headquarters, his services will be available “wherever needed in the wide area of leprosy work carried on by the Mission to Lepers and the American Leprosy Missions.” Mrs. Dorothy Drake, of Queens, Maine, is said to be planning to write a book about her; she had already done that about Dr. Mary Verghees, director of the Department of Rehabilitation at Vellore, where she learned her surgical skills under Dr. Brand.

Dr. C. K. Jen, of the Schieffelin Leprosy Research Sanatorium, at Kiri-Giri, near Vellore, in South India, has been made head of the Department of Pathology in the Christian Medical College at Vellore, expecting to continue his work at Kiri-Giri. He is at present doing special work in London, intending to return to India in July.

Dr. José O. Nigambo, pathologist at the Cullion Sanatorium from 1928 to 1939, and since then at the Leprosy Training and Research Center in Manila, died suddenly on January 14, 1964.

Dr. Shaik K. Nershi, last year a Fellow of the Leonard Wood Memorial-National Institute of Health who received his M.P.H. degree from the University of Michigan School of Public Health, visited Carville recently before returning to his post as epidemiologist at the Central Leprosy Teaching and Research Institute at Chingola, Zambia.

Dr. Charles C. Sheppard, of the USPHS Communicable Disease Center, Atlanta, Georgia, has been the recipient of two awards for his success in producing multiplication of the leprosy bacillus in the footpads of mice. One was the Gorgas medal for 1963 from the Association of Military Surgeons, the other the Kimble award of the Owens-Illinois Company.

Mrs. Eunice Weaver, of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, became the eleventh recipient of the Damien-Dutton award of the Damien-Dutton Society on the occasion of the 8th International Congress of Leprosy, for her pioneer work on behalf of the children of infected parents in Brazil carried out over many years.