

NEWS AND NOTES

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

NEWS ITEMS

India: *Leprosy workers conference in Andhra Pradesh.*—The first Andhra Pradesh State Leprosy Workers Conference sponsored by Sri Gowthami Jeeva Karunya Sangham, Rajahmundry, was held from 3-5 July 1964 at Rajahmundry in Andhra Pradesh. The main objectives of the Conference were to bring together medical and lay-workers engaged in leprosy relief work from both governmental and voluntary agencies, for discussion of their mutual problems and of ways and means for the eradication of leprosy in the context of the Fourth Five Year Plan of the Government of India. The Conference was inaugurated by the Union Minister for Health and was well attended.

Seminar on trophic ulcers in Karigiri.—The third meeting of the Madras State Leprosy Research Coordination Committee was inaugurated on 26 February 1964 by the Assistant Director of Medical Services, Madras State, at the Schieffelin Leprosy Research Sanatorium, Karigiri, North Arcot District in Madras State. This was followed by a Seminar on "Trophic Ulcers" presided over by Dr. Paul W. Brand and Dr. Dharmendra. The meeting was well attended by orthopedic surgeons and physiotherapists engaged in leprosy work. Papers were presented covering neuropathic joints and bone changes in the feet of leprosy patients, paralysis of intrinsic muscles of the foot and their contribution to the production of trophic ulcers in the feet, surgical management of badly ulcerated and deformed feet, and other subjects. Dr. Brand described the mechanism of ulceration and the results of his foot-pressure studies. The footwear made at Karigiri was demonstrated and its value explained.—K. RAMANUJAM.

Seminar on drug trials in leprosy in Chingleput.—A one day seminar on "Drug Trials in Leprosy" was held on 3 March 1964 at the Central Leprosy Institute, Chingleput. Dr. R. V. Rajam, F.R.C.P., F.R.S., Retired Director of the Institute of Venereology, Madras, presided and acted as moderator. Apart from the Institute staff members, who took an active part in the seminar, the Director of Ayurvedic Research Institute in Madras and the Director of a premier Pharmaceutical and Chemical Research Institute in India participated. The meeting was attended also by top-ranking physicians and specialists in other disciplines of medicine. The subjects covered included: (1) history of, and need for drug trials in leprosy; (2) criteria for drug trials in ancient India; (3) statistical considerations in drug trials in leprosy; (4) clinical considerations in drug trials in leprosy, and (5) role of laboratories in drug trials.—K. RAMANUJAM

Leprosy in Muzaffarpur.—Over 1,400 people are suspected to be suffering from leprosy in the district of Muzaffarpur, according to a survey performed by the local Health Department. (*from: Indian J. Med. Sci.*, January 1965)

Malaya: *Eradication of leprosy.*—Dr. B. L. Molhatra, formerly Senior WHO Officer of the Sungei Buloh Leprosarium in Malaya, reports that in 1963 there were about 4,970 cases of leprosy in Malaya. He stated that important steps are being taken toward eradication and control of the disease. The Malayan Leprosy Relief Association, established in 1959, is working toward this goal. (*from: Leprosy Rev.* **35** (1964) 183-191)

The Netherlands: *Increase in leprosy.*—As a result of the great increase in international travel and because of immigration from Indonesia, a number of leprosy patients have entered the Netherlands. A total of about 250 persons are being followed by dermatologists. Some patients who have been declared cured and who wanted to begin a new life in the Netherlands, experienced an acute lepra reaction after arrival in the Nether-

lands. In those with analgesic or achromic spots ulcers may develop. (*from: Geneesk Gids*, 42 (1964) 375).

Korea: *Government and Mission cooperate in leprosy training courses.*—The ALM-supported Ai Rak Won Leprosarium in Korea, related to the United Presbyterian Mission general hospital in Taegu, has become the center for a united mission-government-WHO campaign to combat leprosy in this area. The leprosarium and its new \$100,000 rehabilitation unit built by American Leprosy Missions in 1963 were recently chosen by the Korean government to conduct training courses for former leprosy patients in casefinding and follow-up work among clinic patients. Some 50 trainees have already finished the two-and-a-half-month courses and are at work in the government-WHO clinic program. Dr. Yun Bin Park, medical director of Ai Rak Won, who was sent last year by American Leprosy Missions for specialized training at the Wm. Jay Schieffelin Research and Training Center at Karigiri, India, cooperated with the government in a recent leprosy survey which included newly enlisted soldiers, schools and a house-to-house survey in Kyungju, covering 4,000 houses. Among 1,800 soldiers 6 new cases of leprosy were found, and 20 cases were discovered in the house survey. (From *ALM News*, January 1965.)

United States: *Fund for Vellore.*—In the *Saturday Review* for October 3, 1964, is an article by Norman Cousins, editor of that magazine, entitled "Paul Brand and His Mission," with a subtitle "Healing and Pursuit of Pain at a Hospital in India." Accompanying that article is a background note on the origin and development of the Vellore Christian Medical College and Hospital by Dr. John K. G. Webb, deputy director of the general administrative staff of the Medical College. In a box at the end is an invitation to readers to help in the work of Paul Brand and his associates by contributions to a Vellore Medical Fund, to be sent care of *Saturday Review* at 380 Madison Avenue, New York, N. Y. 10017. In a letter in the issue of November 21st, Brand pointed out that much of the credit attributed to him is for work done by other people, "many of them my fellow workers here at Vellore." In an appended editor's note it is said that, at that time, contributions had totaled over \$6,000.—H. W. WADE

Sixth Annual ALM Seminar at Carville.—Scheduled leaders for this seminar, April 22-28, included Dr. Paul Brand of London; Dr. Roy Pfaltzgraff of Garkida, Nigeria, currently acting chief of rehabilitation at the USPHS hospital at Carville; and Dr. Paul Fasal of San Rafael, California. Members of the hospital staff and outside specialists in various fields were named as additional leaders. About 40 mission workers of all denominations, selected by American Leprosy Missions, were expected to attend.

Liberia: *Training in footwear manufacture.*—A workshop training center in the production of special footwear for leprosy patients will be established at the leprosarium of the Methodist Mission in Ganta, under the direction of Mr. Humphrey Ude, a specialist in footwear trained at the Oji River Leprosy Center, Onitsha, Eastern Nigeria. It is said that 75% of patients in the leprosarium suffer from foot disabilities.

Brazil: *Course on leprology.*—The Center of Leprosy Studies of the University of Paraná, held its Fifth Annual Course on Leprology, Curitiba, 11-29 January 1965, consisting of 2 parts, theoretic and practical. The faculty included R. N. Miranda, Lecturer in the Chair of Clinical Dermatology in the University of Paraná; J. M. Munhoz da Rocha of the Department of Microbiology of the University; J. F. Ratton, neurosurgeon from the Hospital de Clinicas; L. C. Pereira, leprologist from the Department of Public Health, and Ayrton São Marcos, physician in the National Campaign against Leprosy.

Venezuela: *International course on rehabilitation in leprosy* (see also *THE JOURNAL* 32 (1964) 451).—An outstanding feature in antileprosy work in Caracas, Venezuela is the commencement on May 1 of this year of an international course on the rehabilitation of crippled leprosy patients by nonsurgical means. The course is scheduled to last 11 weeks and to be held at the headquarters of the Division of Sanitary Dermatology of the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare. It is a joint undertaking of that Ministry and the Pan American Health Organization, with cooperation from the American Leprosy Missions, the Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation of New York University, the World Rehabilitation Fund, and the International Society for Rehabilitation

of the Disabled. The course includes visits at various services of physical medicine and rehabilitation in several Venezuelan states. Fifteen participants are registered. Ten of these represent selections by the Pan American Health Organization in different Latin American countries; the remaining 5 will be Venezuelan leprologists selected from the medical staff of the Division of Sanitary Dermatology. The course will cover general aspects of rehabilitation (3 weeks), rehabilitation in leprosy (5 weeks), and field work at regional services (3 weeks). The teaching staff includes Dr. Paul W. Brand, who will direct the course, Dr. J. J. Arvelo, Dr. Masayoshi Itoh, Dr. Oliver K. Hasselblad, Dr. Ruperto Huerta and a selected group of Venezuelan specialists in dermatology from the Division of Sanitary Dermatology and other sources.—J. CONVIT

PERSONALS

DR. THOMAS F. NORMAN of Dorset, England, former medical officer in Assam, has been appointed by American Leprosy Missions as one of its three representatives on the steering committee of the Leprosy Research Fund, London.

DR. R. WARDEKAR, Secretary of the Gandhi Memorial Leprosy Foundation, India, former consultant to the WHO leprosy control project in Nepal, and a councillor of the International Leprosy Association is presently carrying out a six months assignment as a WHO consultant. His task is to study leprosy control in selected South Pacific territories. (*from: WHO Chronicle, December 1964*)