

The Leonard Wood Memorial for the Eradication of Leprosy (American Leprosy Foundation)

For readers who are not familiar with the Leonard Wood Memorial I am adding this brief note on its history and current programs to the *Proceedings* of the Leonard Wood Memorial-Armed Forces Institute of Pathology Conference on Research Problems in Leprosy.

The Leonard Wood Memorial for the Eradication of Leprosy is an American voluntary organization incorporated on January 12, 1928 under the membership laws of the State of New York.

Its principal purposes as designated in the charter are "to carry on, maintain and support laboratory investigations, clinical observations and all manner of research with respect to the disease of leprosy; to disseminate information concerning the source, diagnosis, treatment and prevention of leprosy. . . ."

A Board of Trustees, composed of fifteen professional and business leaders, directs its activities and serves without compensation. Its members receive advice and guidance from an Advisory Medical Board of thirteen scientists, including the Surgeons General of the U.S. Army, Navy, Air Force and Public Health Service.

The basic source of the Memorial's funds is voluntary contributions from the American public. In recent years this has been supplemented by grants for specific purposes from the United States Government's Public Health Service and from the World Health Organization.

It was the need for further knowledge and the opportunities for study at the Culion Leprosy Colony in the Philippines, that led, about 1922, to the establishment of the Leonard Wood Memorial. At that time, Maj. Gen. Leonard Wood, educated as a physician, was Governor General of the Philippines. His medical training and instincts kindled an interest in the needs of

the patients with leprosy. He appealed to his friends in America for financial help and arranged for Mrs. Dorothy Paul Wade, wife of Dr. H. W. Wade who was then, as now, at Culion, to return to the United States to stimulate giving. She enlisted the help of Mr. Perry Burgess, an expert in fund raising; together, they organized an informal sponsoring committee and were successful in securing financial support. On the death of General Wood in 1927, this informal committee elected to incorporate the funds as a memorial to him.

The Memorial's first activities were designed to meet immediate needs for improvement of the facilities available for the care of patients in the Philippines. At Culion a new modern pathologic laboratory, a modern and comfortable home for the staff of nurses, a new research ward, and a group of residences for the personnel, were constructed. At Cebu a skin clinic was erected, and, at Mandawe on the outskirts of Cebu, the fine Eversley Childs Treatment Station was built. All these facilities were later turned over to the Philippine Government and continue to operate at a high level of efficiency under the direction of the Philippine Government Health Services.

Dr. H. W. Wade became the first Medical Director in 1931. He is known the world over for his outstanding contributions to the knowledge of leprosy. Although he retired as Pathologist in 1959, he has continued as Pathologist Emeritus. Dr. James A. Doull in 1948 succeeded Dr. Wade as Medical Director and served with distinction until his death in April 1963.

Recognizing that the Memorial's funds would soon be exhausted if they continued to be used for construction, the Trustees, in 1932, voted to confine the future activities of the Memorial to "scientific research in the problems presented in leprosy."

They recognized, however, that it was not sufficient simply to gather information through research. Such information must be distributed and made available to others. To this end the Memorial pioneered in bringing together scientists from the world over for an exchange of experiences and free discussion. As a first step, in 1931, the Memorial called together at Manila leprologists from fourteen countries where leprosy is prevalent. At this meeting the International Leprosy Association was formed and the INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF LEPROSY was founded. Dr. Wade was elected Editor, a post he held until late 1963. Significant steps were taken toward a common classification and terminology of leprosy, and better methods for its treatment.

Since its inception the INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF LEPROSY has been subsidized by the Memorial in annual amounts of from a few thousand to more than \$10,000. This JOURNAL, now in its thirty-third year, continues to present to the world the record of scientific efforts, sometimes of heartbreaking failure, but, here and there, of brilliant success.

The other accomplishments of the Memorial during its thirty-seven years of corporate existence are too numerous to mention. Its present program includes clinical research and studies in microbiology and pathology in a modern research laboratory on the grounds of the Eversley Childs Sanitarium in the Philippines; an epidemiologic study operating out of the Skin Clinic

at Cebu, Philippines; microbiologic and biochemical research in well-equipped laboratories at the School of Hygiene and Public Health, the Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, and the Laboratory of Immunohematology, Baltimore City Hospitals; research in pathology, animal transmission, and electron microscopy at the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology in Washington; technical support for the cultivation of the human leprosy bacillus at the National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, Maryland; transmission of leprosy to chimpanzees at the Delta Regional Primate Center, Covington, Louisiana; and a program of training to develop young investigators in leprosy research.

These programs are financed in part by Leonard Wood Memorial funds and in part by grants from the National Institutes of Health of the United States Public Health Service and from the World Health Organization. They are directed by Dr. Chapman H. Binford, Medical Director, assisted by Dr. Esmond R. Long, Consultant to the Medical Director and Editor of the INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF LEPROSY, and other consultants.

The staff of the Leonard Wood Memorial, the Advisory Medical Board and the Board of Trustees, have all given enthusiastic support to the Conference reported in this supplement to the INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF LEPROSY, and hope that ideas generated by this Conference will contribute to the ultimate solution of the unsolved problems in leprosy.

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