



The Armed Forces Institute of Pathology

The Armed Forces Institute of Pathology, site of the Conference on Research Problems in Leprosy, 11-14 May 1965, the *Proceedings* of which are recorded in this volume, was founded in 1862 as the Army Medical Museum, an institution for display of specimens of interest in military medicine. Known nationally and internationally as the "AFIP," it is now an organization of much wider scope, of world wide influence in research on pathology. It has served as a training center for hundreds of students and investigators of pathology from the United States and other countries. During 1964, in addition to many students from the United States, it provided training in pathology for 35 nationals from 19 other countries. A competent authority once referred to the AFIP as the "postgraduate school of pathology of the United States."

The scientific staff of the Institute includes more than 150 members. It furnishes consultative service in pathology to 60,000 patients annually in hospitals of the U. S. Army, Navy, Air Force, Veterans Administration, and Public Health Service, and, by special arrangement, numerous civilian hospitals as well.

Designed originally as a medical museum useful for instruction of medical officers on pathology incident to military service in

the American Civil War, it has expanded to an organization unmatched for research and instruction in pathology as a whole. It has been called the hub of American pathology. Its activities include broad training and research in all fields of that science. It is governed by a joint board consisting of the three surgeons general of the Armed Forces, and operates under a military officer, who is Director of the Institute, and a Scientific Director concerned with the technical aspects of its programs. For convenience of operation it is divided into divisions representing the major branches of pathology.

Of special interest to participants in the Conference here reported are (1) its registries of pathology, one of which is devoted to leprosy, and (2) a Division of Geographic Pathology concerned with training and research in the pathology of diseases of special significance in other parts of the world. The Institute supports programs of medical research in several countries.

In view of the broad international scope of the AFIP, as well as the unrivalled technical services it renders for conferences such as the one here reported, it was particularly fitting that the Conference could be held here as a joint program of the Institute and the Leonard Wood Memorial for the Eradication of Leprosy.