

Within recent months the Editorial Board of *THE JOURNAL* and the Council of the International Leprosy Association have approved certain changes in the cover and format of *THE JOURNAL*, to take effect with the first issue for 1966, i.e., Volume 34, Number 1, for the months January-March.

The scientific investigation of leprosy has always profited from advances in the understanding of pathogenetic factors and the clinical course of other diseases caused by microorganisms of the genus *Mycobacterium*. The utilization in leprosy of staining procedures, epidemiologic methods and chemotherapeutic drugs used successfully in tuberculosis, and the leads obtained for investigation of *M. leprae* through an understanding of the unique growth requirements of the etiologic agent of Johne's disease, are cases in point. Many other examples could be cited. Disease of mycobacterial origin occurs in mice, rats, cats, cattle of wide variety, fish and other cold blooded animals, birds of many species, and numerous other forms of life. In not a few of these the histopathologic picture in affected tissues bears some resemblance to that of leprosy. Thus, however illogical it may be, and annoying at times to expert leprologists, such terms as rat, cat, and bird leprosy, and lepra bubalorum, have crept into leprosy literature, confusing some issues, as well as calling attention to some factors in common. Currently infections by *Mycobacterium ulcerans* and *Mycobacterium balnei* evoke increased interest, partly because of the necessary differential diagnosis from leprosy in some areas of the world. As a matter of fact, besides their shared staining characteristics, certain other attributes, including optimum temperature requirements for growth of the etiologic agents, are reminiscent of factors believed to play a role in the multiplication of *M. leprae*.

With such facts in mind, and a practical interest in increasing circulation of *THE JOURNAL* by bringing in an audience of wider interest, members of the Editorial Board constituting a majority of the Board, meeting in Washington, D. C. in May 1965 in connection with a research conference on leprosy problems sponsored by the Leonard Wood Memorial and the U. S. Armed Forces Institute of Pathology, recommended that the subtitle "and other mycobacterial diseases" (in

smaller type) be appended to the title INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF LEPROSY. Subsequent circulation of board members not present at that meeting resulted in approval without a dissenting vote.

It should be noted that in making the recommendation the Board wished to strengthen the role of THE JOURNAL in its primary purpose of adding to knowledge of leprosy, and not to open its pages to independent exposition of new facts on other diseases now well cared for in other journals, as in the case of tuberculosis. The subtitle simply places responsibility on the Editorial Board for the acceptance and selection of original articles and abstracts from current literature on mycobacterial disease that have a recognizable bearing on the propagation of understanding of leprosy.

The change recommended by the Editorial Board was approved by the Council of the International Leprosy Association by mail vote following circularization among its members by the Secretary-Treasurer of the Association, in July 1965, of a letter with reference to the change prepared by the Acting President of the International Leprosy Association.

A second change approved by the Editorial Board is in the interest of economy. As most members of the ILA know, THE JOURNAL runs a substantial deficit each year, which has to be made up at present from other sources than the membership of the Association. The IJL is not alone in this respect. Years ago it was learned in the management of other medical journals that a substantially larger number of words can be placed on a single page, without proportionate increase in printing and mailing costs, by going to the double (or in larger size journals, triple) column format. The trend in this day of rising costs is entirely in that direction. The majority of readers, if not all, also find the smaller line of the double column format easier to follow in continuous reading. The recent conversion of *Leprosy Review* to the double column format is an illustration of the trend.

At the May 1965 meeting of the Editorial Board it was recommended that the *Proceedings* of the Research Conference in which they were taking part, be published in THE JOURNAL in double column format, and, if that course appeared practical, to commence publication of the regular issues of THE JOURNAL in similar form in 1966. The Board as a whole later approved the change by mail. The *Proceedings* of the conference were published in that form as Part 2 of the issue of THE JOURNAL for July-September 1965, and on the basis of that experience THE JOURNAL will use the double column format regularly in 1966.

The attention of readers of the INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF LEPROSY is called to the fact that certain changes in the subscription price for nonmembers of the International Leprosy Association will soon be necessary. These will be the subject of a later communication from the business management of THE JOURNAL.

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