

OBITUARIES

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Dr. Kikuo Hamano 1897-1965

Dr. Kikuo Hamano, former Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Tofu Kyokai (Japanese Leprosy Foundation), died of cancer of the stomach at the age of 68 on January 5, 1966, in Tokyo. He remained strong and vigorous, though confined to a

sick-bed for the last several months. His funeral was held on January 19 at the Aoyama Funeral Parlor, Tokyo.

Dr. Hamano was born in Kokura, Kyushu, in 1897. He graduated from the Keio Gijuku University School of Medicine in

1924. After postgraduate study in the bacteriologic institute and the medical clinic of the university, he was appointed a communicable disease control officer. Since then he had had a highly successful career in the fields of public health and preventive medicine for 24 years, until 1949, when he retired from his post as Director of the Bureau of Preventive Medicine of the Ministry of Public Health and Welfare. His achievements during this period in establishing and improving the tuberculosis administration, in establishing health centers throughout the whole country, and in transferring the army and navy hospitals and sanatoria to the Ministry of Public Health and Welfare after World War II, in the midst of his other work, were remarkable. As a Standing Director since 1952, and then as the Chief Director of the Tofu Kyokai since 1959, he had devoted himself to the relief and rehabilitation of leprosy patients and also to encouraging research activities on leprosy in Japan.

Dr. Hamano was sent to England, Germany, France, Denmark, Poland and the United States in 1930 as an exchange student of the League of Nations, to China in 1940, and in 1942 to Indo-China, Thailand, Malaya, Sumatra, Java, the Celebes and the Philippines. As the Director of the Tofu Kyokai, he went to England, Italy, the United States, India, the Philippines, Formosa and Korea to visit leprosaria, to attend meetings and conferences, and to exchange ideas and opinions with the leprologists and the workers in the field of leprosy in those countries.

In 1958 the Japanese leprologists conducted the VIIth International Congress of Leprology in Tokyo. Dr. Hamano, as the Executive Secretary, worked energetically and scrupulously, finally making the Tokyo Congress a great success, although only a little time had been available for the necessary arrangements. In 1963 he attended the VIIIth Congress in Rio de Janeiro. In 1965, at the IIIrd Pan-Pacific Rehabilitation Conference, held in Tokyo, he took part in the arrangements and successfully managed the leprosy section of the Conference.

Having visited various countries and

conducted the Tokyo Congress, Dr. Hamano became acquainted with many foreigners who were engaged in treating leprosy patients or in research work on leprosy. Many of them became his good friends. They were all attracted by his friendly and energetic personality. They esteemed him as one of the most capable persons in the field of leprosy in the world. Recognizing the importance of international cooperation, he treated his foreign friends and visitors very kindly and offered them every convenience for visiting leprosaria and other institutions in Japan. He listened willingly to their advice and opinions in order to improve the treatment of leprosy patients and research work on leprosy in Japan.

In line with the primary aim of the Tofu Kyokai, which was initially established by the aid and the encouragement of the Japanese Imperial Household, Dr. Hamano often visited all the leprosaria in Japan to console the patients and help rehabilitate them. He also made the public aware of the importance of treating and assisting leprosy patients and honored those who rendered distinguished service in treating leprosy patients or made significant contributions in research on leprosy. He endeavored especially to make the public realize that leprosy is a curable disease. To encourage research work on leprosy, he edited *La Lepro*, the official organ of the Japanese Leprosy Association, for some years. By organizing a joint committee for leprosy research, he encouraged research workers to classify the types of leprosy, including those prevailing in Japan, to standardize the antigen and the criteria for the lepromin reaction, and to conduct studies on the preventive effects of BCG upon leprosy. He also made efforts to promote reconstructive surgery for leprosy patients. Dr. Tomosaburo Ogata, now President of the Tofu Kyokai and a leading pathologist in Japan, was asked by him to be a chairman of the joint research committee and to reexamine leprosy thoroughly from the pathologic point of view. Dr. Hamano sent a number of Japanese leprologists to India, the Philippines and Okinawa to investigate leprosy cases and lep-

rosy administration in those countries. His efforts have contributed greatly to the progress of research on leprosy in Japan.

Dr. Hamano was a man of strong convictions and decisive action, and an excellent organizer. His zeal to relieve lep-

rosy patients and to promote research on leprosy should be esteemed highly and long remembered after his death, in Japan as well as in other countries.

—KANEHIKO KITAMURA