

NEWS and NOTES

This department furnishes information concerning institutions, organizations, and individuals engaged in work on leprosy and other mycobacterial diseases, and makes note of scientific meetings and other matters of interest.

Changes in Prospect for Three U. S. Leprosy Centers

The Carville *Star* for March-April 1966 called attention to certain changes in prospect for the three leprosy centers in the United States, i.e., the hospital at Carville, La., the Hale Mohalu Center in Pearl City, Oahu, Hawaii, and the Kalaupapa Settlement in the island of Molokai in Hawaii. The Hale Mohalu center has deteriorated and will be replaced by a new 85 bed hospital costing \$1.8 million. The enrollment of patients at the center at Kalaupapa has decreased. Only 61 patients with active disease remain, but some 136 other patients who have recovered have elected to stay at the center. At Carville present plans call for construction of a new clinical and office building to replace the old infirmary building and house various treatment and clinical facilities. The bed capacity will be 70 infirmary beds, 40 beds for protective care and 30 beds for the neuropsychiatry unit. Funds for the modernization are expected to be available in the fiscal year 1968. One hundred and eighty patients with active leprosy and 120 recovered patients were reported as resident in the U.S.P.H.S. Hospital at Carville. (The Carville *Star* 25 (1966) 8.)

Seventh American Leprosy Missions Seminar

The seventh annual seminar on leprosy sponsored jointly by American Leprosy Missions and the U. S. Public Health Service was held at Carville, La., April 14-20, 1966, with participants selected by American Leprosy Missions, including physicians, surgeons, nurses, physiotherapists, occupational therapists, technicians and administrators. Drs. O. W. Hasselblad and Paul W. Brand emphasized the necessity of coordinating all leprosy work, governmental as well as mission and private, to ensure proper progress in control of the disease. Dr. Hasselblad pointed out that the time is past when a mission center can carry on effective leprosy work without regard to other programs in the area. Dr. Brand stressed the role of the WHO and government programs in dealing with large numbers of patients, and the wisdom of mission institutions in offering their hospital facilities for rehabilitation and surgical treatment in WHO and government programs.

NEWS ITEMS

Bolivia: *Three new hospitals.* In ceremonies attended by Bolivian government officials and church leaders, three new hospitals were recently dedicated at the Bolivian Indian Mission Leprosarium on the shores of Lake Victoria in the Beni Area. The new units of the 18-year-old treatment center, which has been renamed the Walter

J. Herron Leprosarium after its late founder-director, consist of a clinic, a dispensary and a hospital ward. There are about 50 resident patients. In addition the leprosarium conducts a program for domiciliary treatment in surrounding towns. [News from A.L.M., February 1966.]

Paraguay: *Construction of new leprosy clinic building.* The "Patronato de Leprosos," a voluntary agency serving leprosy patients in Asunción and its environs, has commenced construction of a modern leprosy clinic building with financial support from American Leprosy Missions. The clinic building will include treatment rooms, a dispensary, laboratories, consultation rooms, offices, a library and an auditorium. It is estimated that there are 60,000 victims of leprosy in Paraguay, of whom 16 per cent are reached by the Patronato and government and mission programs. [From News from A.L.M., February 1966.]

Venezuela: *Visits by leprosy experts.* A follow-up program, based on the two month course on leprosy rehabilitation held in the spring of 1965 in Caracas under the auspices of the Pan-American Health Organization, the Government of Venezuela, the International Society for Rehabilitation of the Disabled, American Leprosy Missions, and the World Rehabilitation Fund, has been set up which will include visits in Argentina, Paraguay, Ecuador, Colombia, Mexico and Venezuela during 1966 by Dr. Paul W. Brand of Carville, La., U. S. A. and Dr. José Arvelo of the Division of Dermatology of the Venezuelan Ministry of Health. Their visits will include discussions with participants in the 1965 course who returned to their countries to carry out recommendations made at the rehabilitation course in Caracas. [From News from A.L.M., April 1966.]

Germany: *ALM opens office.* American Leprosy Missions has opened a joint office in Frankfurt, Germany, which will serve as a distribution point for educational and informational materials on leprosy.

Switzerland: *WHO Expert Committee on Leprosy.* Reporting on its meeting in Geneva July 27-August 2, 1965, the World Health Organization's Expert Committee on Leprosy reported that leprosy patients all over the world have benefited from the efforts of voluntary leprosy organizations. More emphasis than ever before is being placed by these agencies on research.

Taiwan: *Increase in number of clinics.* The Taiwan Leprosy Relief Association, in its annual report for 1965, reported that there has been a steady increase in the number of patients treated in the nine clinics operated by the Association. Treatment has been hampered by lack of qualified personnel. It is estimated that some 6,000 leprosy patients in Taiwan are not receiving treatment. In the report data are given on the leprosy rehabilitation program of the Association, with a summary of the deformities of various types encountered. The report also includes summaries from the individual hospitals and clinics operating in the antileprosy program.

Uganda: *New leprosy hospital.* Donations by the German Federal Government, the cities of Hilden and Wuerzburg and the German Foundation for Leprosy, financed a leprosy hospital with 86 beds, opened recently at Buluba near Lake Victoria in the central African state of Uganda. [*Deutsch. Aerztebl.* March 12, 1966; *J.A.M.A.* 196 (1966) 748.]

United States: *Kellersberger Memorial Foundation.* A foundation, designated the Kellersberger Memorial Foundation, has been established by American Leprosy Missions to honor the life and work of its former general secretary Dr. Eugene R. Kellersberger "to insure the ongoing of many basic principles in Christian leprosy work instituted by Dr. Kellersberger." Initially A.L.M.'s Board of Directors will use the Foundation's gifts to help establish the All Africa Leprosy and Rehabilitation Training Center in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, a project proposed by Dr. Kellersberger 22 years ago. [News from A.L.M., April 1966.]

Stanley Stein Award. The first annual Stanley Stein award for "services beyond the call of duty" in leprosy work has been awarded posthumously to Dr. Edgar B. Johnwick. The \$100, which goes with the award, will be put in the present fund for establishing the Edgar B. Johnwick Memorial Reading Room in conjunction with the Carville Medical Library. [*Carville Star* 25 (1966) 10.]

United Kingdom: *Regulations for care of leprosy patients.* The *Carville Star* reports the substance of a debate on the subject of leprosy in the British House of Commons in February 1966. Much of the discussion centered on changes in Parliament's regulations of such character as to level the "wall of secrecy" which, in the past, has interfered with proper care of leprosy patients. A "special Panel of Leprosy Opinion" was established by the Ministry of Health to assist public health officers in

problems of diagnosis involving leprosy and the management of cases and contacts.

Mexico: *Mexican Association for Action against Leprosy.* The Mexican Association for Action against Leprosy in its 19th general assembly of members on 28 April 1966 elected the following officers, among others, to serve from 1966 to 1968: President, Fernando Latapí; Vice-president, Amado Saúl; Secretary, Víctor Manuel Ruiz Godoy; Treasurer, Sirta Concepción Pérez Castro.

PERSONALS

DR. MERLIN L. BRUBAKER, Medical Officer in Charge, U.S.P.H.S. Hospital, Carville, recently spent several weeks in the Ryukyu Islands as consultant on leprosy for the U. S. Civil Administration in the Islands. His trip included a visit in Okinawa.

PASTOR WERNER DICKE, head of the Annastift, Center for the Habilitation and Rehabilitation of Physically Disabled, in Hannover-Kleefeld for 25 years, has been named President of the Tenth World Congress of the International Society for Rehabilitation of the Disabled, replacing Dr. K. Lindeman (see below).

DR. OLIVER W. HASSELBLAD, President of American Leprosy Missions, Inc., has been made a member of the U. S. President's Committee on Employment of the Handicapped, a committee made up of representatives of labor, industry and the professions, national, civic and veterans bodies, and organizations for the handicapped, to provide a continuing program of public information and education for employment of the handicapped. [*Carville Star* 25 (1966) 14.]

PROF. DR. MED. K. LINDEMAN, Professor and Director of the Orthopedic Institute of the University of Heidelberg and first Chairman of the German Society for Rehabilitation of the Disabled, who was to serve as President of the Tenth World Congress of the International Society for Rehabilitation of the Disabled to be held in

Wiesbaden, Germany, September 11-17, 1966, died on April 9, 1966.

DR. INDRA BAHADUR MALI, Senior Leprologist in the Government of Nepal, the first leprologist from Nepal to take part in the training program of the Agency for International Development, has returned to Nepal after receiving the degrees of Master of Public Health and Master of Tropical Medicine at Tulane University. [From *Carville Star* 25 (1966) 5.]

DR. JOHN M. H. PEARSON, who has recently been on home leave in England, returned in June 1966 to the Leprosy Research Unit at Sungei Buloh, Malaya.

DR. JOHN H. S. PETTIT, who became interested in leprosy while professor of dermatology in the University of Siraz in Iran, and after January 1962, worked for the British Medical Research Council as Officer in Charge of the Research Unit at Sungei Buloh Leprosarium in Malaya, started work in July 1966 as Chief of Professional Training and Research at the United States Public Health Service Hospital in Carville, Louisiana, U. S. A.

DR. KOCHU KUNJU PRABHAKARAN, biochemist, who has been with the Indian Cancer Research Center in Bombay for the past 16 years, has joined the laboratory staff of the U.S.P.H.S. Hospital at Carville.

SISTER HILARY ROSS, who assumed a new post in Japan five years ago after 37 years of service at the U.S.P.H.S. Hospital at Car-

ville, returned to Carville for a visit in February. Sister Hilary will have been a nun for 50 years in November of this year. The part she played in the original investigation of the value of promin in the treatment of leprosy is noted in the reprinted article on that subject in this issue of THE JOURNAL (pp. 298-310).

DR. JOHN R. TRAUTMAN, formerly Chief of the Clinical Branch at the U. S. Public Health Service Hospital at Carville,

La., has been transferred to the position of Medical Officer in charge at the U.S.P.H.S. Hospital in San Francisco.

DR. M. F. R. WATERS, currently on the staff of the National Institute for Medical Research in London, will return to Malaya in October 1966 to take charge of the Leprosy Research Unit at Sungei Buloh, which is operated under the joint auspices of the Malaysian Ministry of Health and the British Medical Research Council.