

Foreword



Man's efforts over the centuries to conquer disease have been recorded by many historians and have given inspiration and encouragement to both professional and lay readers. This history of the Leonard Wood Memorial by Dr. Esmond R. Long reports the attempts of dedicated laymen and scientists during a period of four decades to advance the understanding, treatment and control of leprosy, a disease that has made an indelible impact on the minds of people of widely diverse cultures and ethnic groups, because of the irreversible deformities to which it may lead.

The origins of the Leonard Wood Memorial can be traced back to 1916 when Dr. H. W. Wade arrived in Manila to serve as pathologist and bacteriologist in the Bureau of Science and teach and carry on research in these subjects in the University of the Philippines. As a pathologist he became greatly interested in disease problems in the islands, and especially in leprosy. The keen interest he developed in that disease was further stimulated in conferences with Maj. Gen. Leonard Wood, Governor General of the Philippines, and Dr. Victor G. Heiser, Director for the East in the International Health Division of the Rockefeller Foundation, who had served as chief quarantine officer and Director of Health in the Philippines and in the latter capacity had been instrumental in setting up the now famous leprosy colony in Culion. Wade's growing concern with leprosy resulted in his move from Manila to Culion in 1922 for a life of sustained scientific research on that disease. Out of that development came the Leonard Wood Memorial for the Eradication of Leprosy, founded in 1928. The story of its growth and accomplishments is told in the following pages.

For a number of years an interest has been expressed of the need of a well documented history of the Memorial, furnishing information to assess the results of its progress in the past and serve for guidance in its continuing program. Dr. Long, consultant to the Memorial, agreed to write this history. He had been a member of the first and later Advisory Medical Boards of the Memorial, and in subsequent years had maintained frequent contacts with its medical staff. An investigator with special interest in mycobacterial diseases, Dr. Long had devoted much attention also to subjects in medical history. As author of *A History of Pathology* and *A History of American Pathology* he had demonstrated his ability to assemble and portray essential facts in the record of past events in science. In preparing this objective record of the Leonard Wood Memorial he has maintained the perspective of a medical historian.

This history covers the period of the origin of the Memorial prior to its incorporation on 17 January 1928 through the ensuing 39 years to the close of 1966.

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