

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.

Ninth International Leprosy Congress Announcement

Dr. Stanley G. Browne, Secretary-General of the Ninth International Leprosy Congress, to be held in London, 16-21 September 1968, has announced that financial help promised by several voluntary organizations will go some way toward covering overhead expenses of the Congress.

The Congress will be held at the Imperial College of Science, South Kensington, London, under the patronage of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II of Great Britain and the Commonwealth, and the presidency of Dr. Robert G. Cochrane.

A small organizing committee in London has been in close touch with the Council of the International Leprosy Association. The majority of the council members have indicated that they are not in favor of panels or round tables, and wish to concentrate on the main scientific sessions. It is proposed to hold concurrent sessions on each of three days, when the surgical and social aspects of leprosy may be considered in detail by those especially interested in these fields. Rooms are available at the Imperial College of Science for small informal meetings of groups of leprosy workers. For the main scientific sessions simultaneous translation will be provided in English, French, Portuguese and Spanish.

Papers are to be invited by the chairmen of the various sessions in accordance with suggestions of the Organizing Committee. In addition, members of the ILA may proffer papers to the Organizing Committee for consideration. *Abstracts* (in the four official languages) will be published of all papers submitted whether invited or proffered, provided that four copies of such abstracts (NOT exceeding 200 words in length) are in the hands of the Organizing Committee before 31 March 1968.

Meetings of the Council of the International Leprosy Association will be called at the time of the Congress, as in the past. [From communication to the INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF LEPROSY by Stanley G. Browne, Secretary-Treasurer, ILA, and Secretary-General of the Ninth International Leprosy Congress.]

May 1967

Provisional Program

The Secretary-Treasurer of the International Leprosy Association, and Secretary-General of the Ninth International Leprosy Congress, Dr. Stanley G. Browne, has announced the provisional program of the Ninth International Leprosy Congress, which will be held at the Imperial College of Science and Technology, Prince Consort Road, South Kensington, London, S. W. 1, 16-21 September 1968.

The program for the scientific sessions is as follows:

Monday, 16 September

- Opening ceremony
2:00 p.m. Epidemiology, including Genetics
(Chairman: Dr. C. E. Taylor)

Tuesday, 17 September

- 9:30 a.m. Experimental leprosy, bacteriology
(Chairman: Dr. C. C. Shepard)
2:00 p.m. Experimental leprosy, pathology, with special reference to neurologic aspects.
(Chairman: Dr. G. Weddell)

Wednesday, 18 September

- 9:30 a.m. Immunology, with special reference to hypersensitivity in relation to leprosy.
(Chairman: Dr. J. H. Hanks)
2:00 p.m. BCG and prophylaxis.
(Chairman: Dr. P. D'A. Hart)

Thursday, 19 September

- 9:30 a.m. Reactions, immunologic aspects
(Chairman: Dr. D. S. Ridley)
- 2:00 p.m. Reactions, Clinical aspects and therapy.
(Chairman: Dr. K. Ramanujam)

Friday, 20 September

- 9:30 a.m. Chemotherapy of leprosy, experimental aspects.
(Chairman: Dr. S. R. M. Bushby)
- 12 M-1 p.m. Chemotherapy of leprosy, clinical aspects and therapy.
(Chairman: Dr. M. F. R. Waters)
- 2:00 p.m. Continued

Saturday, 21 September

- 9:30 a.m. Discussion, "Cooperation and Priorities."
(Chairman: Dr. T. F. Davey)
- 12 M Closing ceremony

Concurrent Sessions**Tuesday, 17 September**

- 9:30 a.m. Surgical aspects, orthopedic.
(Chairman: Dr. P. W. Brand)
- 2:00 p.m. Surgical aspects, plastic.
(Chairman: Dr. N. H. Antia)

Wednesday, 18 September

- 9:30 a.m. Ophthalmologic aspects.
(Chairman: Mr. H. E. Hobbs)
- 2:00 p.m. Physiotherapy and prostheses.
(Chairman: Prof. T. N. Jagadisan)

Thursday, 19 September

- 9:30 a.m. The psychology of the leprosy patient.
(Chairman: Dr. O. W. Hasselblad)
- 2:00 p.m. The rehabilitation of the leprosy patient.
(Chairman: to be announced)

As noted in a previous communication from the Secretary-General (S. G. Browne), (THE JOURNAL 35 (1967) 206) simultaneous translation will be provided in English, French, Portuguese and Spanish. Discussants at the sessions may be chosen by the chairmen of the individual sessions before or during the Congress. Opportunity will be given, in addition, for discussants not

previously selected by the chairmen. Also as noted, individual working groups can meet in rooms specially provided, for some days before the Congress proper, and reports prepared by such groups may be published in the INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF LEPROSY.

A set registration fee of US \$50.00 or £17. 17s. 0d., has been established for the Congress. Day visitors are welcome; their registration fee is £2 per day, or £1 for medical students.

Social activities outside the hours of the scientific sessions are being arranged. There will be an official reception, a reception in the House of Commons, a banquet, and other special events. A Ladies' Program, for which the registration fee will be US \$17.00, or £6, will be organized for participants' wives.

Registration forms for the Congress are being distributed. They may be obtained from the Organizing Committee by sending a request to:

The Congress Secretariat
Ninth International Leprosy Congress
11 Whitehall Court
London, S. W. 1, England

July 1967

All Africa Leprosy and Rehabilitation Training Center

All Africa Leprosy and Rehabilitation Training Center requires the following additional medical staff for its new leprosy teaching project:

Physician: To teach leprosy up to the postgraduate level of its medical aspects, including histopathology. Qualifications: M.R.C.P. or equivalent, and experience in medicine in the tropics. The appointment will be in Addis Ababa, with visits to a rural area at intervals, and will be based on a three year contract, renewable, to begin January 1968.

Surgeon: To teach all aspects of the surgical care of leprosy patients up to the postgraduate level. Qualifications: F.R.C.S., or equivalent, and specific training in orthopedic surgery or plastic surgery,

with special experience in the surgery of the hand. Appointment as for Physician, above.

Rural medical officer: To undertake the supervision of a rural leprosy control area under the general direction of the Director of Training, Qualifications: Basic medical qualifications recognized in Ethiopia (such as M.B., B.S., M.D.). Previous experience in leprosy control would be an advantage, but the main requirement is willingness to work in the field. Adequate auxiliary staff will be provided, including an experienced health officer. The contract will be for three years and renewable, to begin September 1967.

All salaries are by arrangement. For further details physicians interested should apply to P. O. Box 165, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

The Leprosy Mission

Under a new constitution members of the Leprosy Mission, formerly the Mission to Lepers, with headquarters at 7 Bloomsbury Square, London, have appointed a new General Council, fully representative of the supporting auxiliaries throughout the world, to meet at least once a year, while direction of the routine management and normal business is handled by an executive committee meeting monthly.

The first meeting of the new General Council, which took place in London on 1 May 1967, was attended by representatives from Australia, Canada, England and Wales, Hong Kong, Denmark, Europe, Ireland and North Ireland, New Zealand, Scotland, South Africa and Switzerland. Sir Harry Greenfield was elected chairman for the ensuing three years.

The Council discussed reports on the work of the Mission in South Asia, the Far East, and Africa, and gave particular attention to special projects, such as the development of work in Bhutan, and the cooperative venture ALERT in Addis Ababa. Matters of medical policy and of income and expenditures were considered at length, and the pattern of the work was defined, with special emphasis on an outgoing Christian compassion and concern, on cooperation, and on teaching and research. The meeting of the General Council was followed by the 92nd annual public meeting on 2 May 1967, with The Most Rev. G. O. Simms, Archbishop of Dublin in the Chair. Mr. A. D. Askew illustrated an address on leprosy work in Korea with a selection of colored slides, and Dr. Stanley G. Browne, the Mission's Medical Consultant, gave a challenging talk on the extent and complexity of the problem and the need for greater effort in cooperation with all others interested in the work.

—N. D. FRASER

NEWS ITEMS

Spain. *Annual prizes in fields of dermatology and venereology.* The president of the Spanish Academy of Dermatology and Syphilography has announced the establishment of two annual prizes for original studies in the field of dermatology and venereology. One of these, for Spanish physicians or physicians from Spanish American countries, designated the Premio Sainz de Aja, was established by the family of the former honorary president of the Academy, D. Enrique Alvarez Sainz de Aja. The other, sponsored by the Spanish

Academy of Dermatology, is open to physicians of all nationalities. Each prize has a value of 15,000 pesetas. The merits of papers submitted will be judged by a commission of the Academy. Papers receiving awards will be published in the *Actas Dermosifiliograficas*. Details may be learned by inquiry at the office of the Academy, Plaza Independencia 4, Madrid.

United States. *ALM Seminar.* The Eighth Annual Seminar on Leprosy, conducted with the collaboration of American

Leprosy Missions, Inc., was held at Carville, Louisiana, 30 March-5 April 1967. The following speakers participated in the program, in addition to members of the U.S. Public Health Service Hospital Staff: C. H. Binford, Medical Director, Leonard Wood Memorial, Washington, D.C.; Paul Fasal, Chief, Leprosy Service, U.S. Public Health Service Hospital, San Francisco; H. A. Cass, Assistant Professor of Medicine, Washington University, St. Louis; O. W. Hasselblad, President, American Leprosy Missions, Inc., New York; Ruperto Huerta, Pan American Health Organization, WHO, Washington, D.C., and O. K. Skinsnes, Department of Pathology, University of Chicago. Numerous physicians and nurses, welfare workers and others interested in the campaign against leprosy, from the United States and abroad, attended the seminar.

Seminar on rehabilitation. The Second Seminar on Leprosy Rehabilitation conducted for graduate students in physical medicine at medical schools in the New York area, was held at New York University Medical Center on 15 and 16 June 1967. Many of the students were from countries where leprosy is highly endemic. Speakers included: Dr. Herbert H. Cass, Department of Dermatology, Washington University; Dr. Chapman H. Binford, Leonard Wood Memorial; Dr. Ruperto Huerta, Pan American Health Organization; Dr. Mathew H. M. Lee, Department of Rehabilitation Medicine, New York University; Dr. Paul W. Brand, Chief, Rehabilitation Branch, USPHS Hospital, Carville; Dr. O. W. Hasselblad, President, American Leprosy Missions, Inc.; Donald V. Wilson, President, Leonard Wood Memorial. Cooperating agencies included: American Leprosy Missions, Inc.; the Committee of Leprosy Rehabilitation, International Society for Rehabilitation of the Disabled; the Leonard Wood Memorial; the Pan American Health Organization; the USPHS Hospital, Carville, La.; and the World Rehabilitation Fund, Inc. Dr. Howard A. Rusk, Department of Rehabilitation Medicine, New York University, acted as director of the Seminar. [News from ALM, May 1967]

Ethiopia. *ALERT starts program.* ALERT (All Africa Leprosy and Rehabilitation Center) has started its leprosy control and teaching program at Debre Berhan in the province of Shoa. The area is thickly populated and easily accessible to Addis Ababa, with good all season roads, as well as a hospital, health center and dresser stations. The staff of the rural area unit will consist of a medical officer, health officer and two nurses. When completed, the facilities will include an administrative office, a pharmacy and supplies section, clinical examination rooms, a laboratory, a small operating theater, beds for ten inpatients, staff housing and ten units of accommodations for students. The control program consists of case finding, patient follow-up, establishment of subclinics in conjunction with general clinics and health centers, and essential care for leprosy patients. Teaching will emphasize an in-service approach and include all aspects of rural leprosy control and treatment. Refresher courses in leprosy for the Shoa Provincial Health Officers have also been organized at the request of the Provincial Medical Officer. [News from ALM, May 1967]

Republic of the Congo. *New outpatient treatment centers.* The Institut Medical Evangelique in Kimpesi has established new outpatient treatment centers at Nsona Pmangu and Kibentele, as well as a program of visitation with stations at Sundi Lutete, Kingoye, Kinkenge and Kibunzi. More than 250 patients are treated on an outpatient basis. The hospital cooperates with Roman Catholic institutions in making school surveys, providing instruction for nursing students and reviewing patients registered at the Catholic Leprosarium. Known locally as "Kivuvu," place of hope, it has treated 336 leprosy patients since it was founded in 1960. [News from ALM, May 1967]

India. *Leprosy workers' conference in West Bengal.* The first West Bengal Leprosy Workers' Conference was held on 11 and 12 March 1967 in the Ashram of Swami Ashimananda Saraswaty in Purnia district. The main subjects of discussion were: soci-

ety and leprosy; social workers and leprosy; leprosy from the patients' point of view; and leprosy control work in West Bengal.

Annual session of the Dermatological Society. The fifth annual session of the Dermatological Society of India was held in Delhi under the chairmanship of Dr. K. N. Rao, Director-General of Health Services, on 18 and 19 March 1967. Problems in connection with different skin diseases were discussed with special attention to allergic dermatitis.

Annual Report for 1965, Hind Kusht Nivaran Sangh (Indian Leprosy Association) New Delhi, pp. 70. As in the last year, the activities of the Association consisted of health education, social welfare, rehabilitation, treatment and relief of patients, and assistance in training programs, especially physiotherapy in leprosy. The report is divided into three parts, comprised of the report of the Chairman, fiscal accounts, and reports of the State branches. The Chairman's report included a review of work by various organizations, e.g., the Government of India, international agencies, WHO, UNICEF, and various voluntary organizations in the country. The Ninth All-India Leprosy Workers' Conference was organized by the Association in Madras in collaboration with the Madras State branch of the Sangh from 27 to 31 January 1965. The total income and the expenditure for the year were Rs.1.12 million and Rs.1.02 million respectively. Activities of the nine state branches were included in the report.

—S. GHOSH

Annual Report for 1965, Madras State Branch of the Hind Kusht Nivaran Sangh. The Madras State Branch of the Hind Kusht Nivaran Sangh, with its Headquarters in Madras, the Governor of Madras as its President, and high ranking Government officials as ex-officio members, has legislators and social workers on its executive committee and council. With eleven district branches closely linked with the State Medical and Public Health Department it helps to consolidate voluntary endeavor and governmental effort in a single campaign against leprosy. Its main activities are health education, social welfare

work for leprosy patients, and provision of rehabilitation facilities. The rehabilitation problem has been approached with the assistance of government and district branches and voluntary organizations. The local government has given a big lead, through its Director of Industries, by offering to take ex-leprosy patients in various training Institutes according to their physical capability.

The State Branch organized the Ninth All India Leprosy Workers' Conference held in Madras in January 1965, Flag Day on 12 February and World Leprosy Day on 30 January 1965.

The report notes that 11 out of the 12 districts in the State have a leprosy incidence varying from 1 to 4 per cent. There are 14 leprosy sanatoria, two of which are run by the Government and 12 by voluntary agencies, one home for crippled patients, one for beggars with leprosy, and one for destitute patients. The total accommodation in all these institutions is about 3,700. Outpatient treatment is available from 26 voluntary and Government centers, in addition to the outpatient treatment made available from 12 of the 17 sanatoria or homes mentioned above. Under the National Leprosy Control Scheme the State Government has established 74 centers, comprised of eight leprosy control units, 12 leprosy subsidiary centers, one leprosy treatment and study center and 53 survey, education and treatment units.

—K. RAMANUJAM

Afghanistan. Leprosy. During the month of May 1966, while I was in Afghanistan as a visiting dermatologist with Care/Medico, approximately 900 dermatologic patients were seen, ten of whom had leprosy; three of these were tuberculoid, two intermediate, and five lepromatous. Dr. Abdul Wase Babury, Professor of Dermatology at the University of Kabul Medical School, estimates that there are approximately 500 known cases of leprosy in a population of about 14 million persons. Since outside of the larger cities few persons are ever seen by a physician, this figure is probably not a true index of this disease. Sulfones are dispensed to all clinic

patients on a voluntary basis without follow-up or family investigation. Management of all disease is complicated by many factors, including the nomadic life of many of the people, too few doctors, poor nutrition, limited hygiene, overcrowded living conditions, lack of sewage disposal, superstitions, inability to purchase drugs, and a philosophy that considers any misfortune as divine will and hence to be borne. However, progress in medicine is being made, especially through the teaching efforts of such organizations as the Peace Corps and Care/Medico in cooperation with the medical schools in Kabul and Jalahabad.

—C. SHAW

Thailand. *McKean Leprosy Hospital leprosy control program.* The McKean Leprosy Hospital in Chiangmai has begun a village program designed after the leprosy control unit at the Wm. J. Schieffelin Re-

search Institute, Karigiri, India. The purpose of the program is to examine and treat every patient in 22 leprosy villages scattered throughout northern Thailand where segregation of leprosy patients is still practiced. The program will be followed up by regular examination of all healthy contacts of patients in order to prevent the spread of leprosy. Examination and treatment of all patients and healthy contacts will be augmented by epidemiologic studies. Patients requiring surgery will be taken to the McKean Hospital. The team for the village program in association with local paramedical workers consists of a physician, a pharmacist, a skin smear technician, a cobbler, a chart man, a cast man, and a driver. Dr. Gilbert E. Fisher, from Georgia, U.S.A., who recently received the Insignia of the Order of the White Elephant from the King of Siam for his work in leprosy relief, is in charge of the program. [*News from ALM*, May 1967]

PERSONALS

Dr. John H. S. Pettit has returned to Malaysia after spending some months at Carville, Louisiana, as Director of Professional Training and Research in the U.S. Public Health Service Hospital. His present address is Room 303, China Insurance Building, 174 Jalan Tuanku Abdul Rah-

man, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia (W).

Dr. Fred L. Soper, former Director of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau, was awarded the Sedgwick Memorial Medal by the American Public Health Association at its 94th Annual Meeting in San Francisco, 27 October-3 November 1966.