OBITUARIES

H. W. Wade 1886 - 1968



Herbert Windsor Wade, eminent investigator of leprosy, third president of the International Leprosy Association (1946-1963), founder and editor of the International Journal of Leprosy from its inception until his retirement, and for many years Medical Director of the Leonard Wood Memorial for the Eradication of Leprosy, died on 8 June 1968, at the age of 81, at Culion, in the Philippines, where he had worked on leprosy problems for nearly half a century.

Born in 1886, Wade began his scientific work in 1906 as a tissue pathologist in the laboratories of the distinguished histopathologist Frank B. Mallory of the Boston City Hospital. His training under Mallory, a master in histopathologic technic, was to serve him in good stead all his life. In 1908 he moved to Montreal, Canada, as assistant to one of Mallory's former associates, Charles W. Duval, who had left Mallory's laboratories to become pathologist at the Montreal General Hospital, with teaching duties at McGill University. In Montreal Wade served as demonstrator in histology. In 1909 he moved to New Orleans, Louisiana, with Duval, who had been called to Tulane University as professor of pathology. At Tulane Wade continued his undergraduate study of medicine, which he had commenced at McGill, serving at the same time as student demonstrator in pathology. He graduated in medicine in 1912 and served for three more years as instructor in pathology at Tulane and resident in pathology at the old and famous Charity Hospital of New Orleans.

In New Orleans he became interested in the pathology of leprosy. His chief, Dr. Duval, was deeply engaged in research on the etiologic agent of the disease, and was one of many who isolated from leprosy patients an acid-fast bacillus considered for a brief period as possibly its inciting agent. During this period Wade developed a close working arrangement with the then relatively primitive but now well equipped leprosy institution at Carville, Louisiana.

In 1915 Wade married Dorothy Paul of New Orleans. Late in that year he accepted an invitation to become pathologistbacteriologist in the Bureau of Science in Manila. He and Mrs. Wade reached the Philippines early in 1916, and there began Wade's lasting dedication to the control of leprosy and leprosy research. He was soon appointed to the chairmanship of the Leprosy Examining Committee of the Bureau of Health of Manila, a position that called for intensive study of diagnostic procedures. In the course of his studies in this field he developed the now well-known "scraped-incision" method of making skin smears for detecting leprosy bacilli. It was the first of Wade's significant accomplishments in the field of leprosy investigation and control.

In 1918 he accepted an academic appointment as head of the Department of Pathology and Bacteriology in the College of Medicine and Surgery of the University of the Philippines. Here he acquired a rich background in tropical medicine.

In 1922 the Wades moved to what became their permanent home, the small island of Culion in the distant province of Palawan, one of the southernmost islands of the Philippine archipelago. It was the seat of what was then designated as the Culion Leper Colony, now the Culion Sanitarium. The story of Wade's transfer to Culion has been told in these pages before,1 and need not be repeated at length here. The move was an outgrowth of Wade's developing scientific interest in leprosy, and the growing concern, at the same time, of Major General Leonard Wood, Governor General of the Islands, and himself a physician, in leprosy as a serious public health problem. Wade made the move at Wood's invitation with appointment as pathologist and acting chief physician, taking with him a handpicked medical and nursing staff from the Philippine General Hospital in Manila. Among those selected was Dr. Jose N. Rodriguez, with whom Wade was closely associated the rest of his life.

Out of that association with General Wood and in large measure through the efforts of Mrs. Wade in raising the necessary funds in the United States, came the Leonard Wood Memorial for the Eradication of Leprosy, of which Wade was the first medical director.²

From 1922 until his declining years Wade carried out an unprecedented series of investigations on the natural history, pathology, and practical problems of lepro-

Of particular significance in this long record of accomplishment were his establishment of the Leonard Wood Memorial Research Laboratory at Culion, one of the world's most productive centers in this field, and his initial participation in the organization of long continued studies by the Memorial of the epidemiology of leprosy and the clinical evaluation of a series of drugs used in its treatment.

The impact of the Leonard Wood Memorial Research Laboratory at Culion on the investigation of leprosy extended much beyond these fields. Among many studies at the Laboratory were those of Dr. John H. Hanks, who was assigned to the Laboratory by the Memorial in 1939. Hanks' studies on the culture, growth and metabolism of the leprosy bacillus, which commenced in

sy. His work in these fields was performed in Culion, but his concepts and much of the pathologic material on which they were based resulted from his world-wide travels and observations of leprosy in many lands. Few men, if any, in our time have had a better perspective on leprosy problems than Wade, and, since he was as critical of his own research as he was of that of others, it is not overly biased to note his own assessment of his accomplishments in leprosy research. These, in the order set forth by Wade himself in a letter to me in 1963, were his "scraped-incision" method, cited above, his studies on tuberculoid leprosy and its identification as a major polar type of the disease, his later emphasis, with his associate J. N. Rodriguez, on the "borderline" form of leprosy as a classifiable variety of the disease, his pioneer investigations of the histoid variety of lepromatous leprosy, and, finally, in the field of immunology, his extensive work on lepromin, which included his own special technic for making it, and on the lepromin reaction.

¹Long, E. R., H. W. Wade, M.D., Editor Emeritus. Internat. J. Leprosy **32** (1964) 73-77.

² An account of the history of the Leonard Wood Memorial, and Wade's long and active work on its behalf, has also appeared previously in THE JOUR-NAL: Long, E. R. Forty Years of Leprosy Research. History of the Leonard Wood Memorial (American Leprosy Foundation) 1928-1967. Internat. J. Leprosy 35 (1967) 239-310. (Part 2)

Wade's laboratories at Culion, and are continuing at the Leonard Wood Memorial Laboratories at the Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, have proved of great significance for the development of this field, and stimulated much research elsewhere.

Wade's relations with the International Leprosy Association were at all times close. He was elected its president in 1946, succeeding Emile Marchoux of the Pasteur Institute, Paris, who had followed the original president, Victor Heiser of the International Health Division of the Rockefeller Foundation. Heiser had served as director of health in the Philippines and been instrumental in founding the leprosy colony at Culion. Wade's influence on the International Leprosy Association, and its members personally, was at all times great.

One of his chief contributions to the study of leprosy was his long editorship of the International Journal of Leprosy. The well-known Conference on Leprosy called by the Leonard Wood Memorial in Manila in 1931,3 of which Wade was chairman, resulted in the foundation of the International Leprosy Association, and a decision to establish as its official organ the International Journal of Leprosy. Wade was appointed editor. The first issue came out in 1933. The journal served a recognized need for the publication of significant research on leprosy, and it served also as a forum for the active mind of its editor. His long series of editorials, commencing with a statement on the International Leprosy Association and the International Journal OF LEPROSY in its first issue, and ending (except for minor notes) with a remarkable analysis of the lysosome in leprosy, furnishes an impressive outlook on problems, controversies, and progress in more than 30 years of intensive study of leprosy all over the world.

His editorial analyses illustrate the breadth of his vision. Covered were chaulmoogra oil therapy, and, much later, sulfone therapy, the tuberculoid and borderline forms of leprosy, the relative infectiousness of the different forms of the disease, the classification of leprosy, its epidemiology, the relations of heredity to susceptibility, attempts at the cultivation of M. leprae, the lepromin and related reactions, BCG in the prevention of leprosy, the morphology of dead and living bacilli, and numerous technical problems in its pathology. Regularly there were informative editorial analyses of the highlights of each international congress.

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Wade was a steady contributor of research articles, himself, in the pages of the International Journal of Leprosy. A list of his scientific papers is appended to this biographic memorial. It is included partly as a record of his accomplishment, but equally because it records the names of associates with whom he worked, many of whom are leaders today, tracing much of their original inspiration and training to his influence.

In Wade's long and productive career perhaps the most impressive element was his sustained deep interest in leprosy. His contributions in this field were based fundamentally on his knowledge of pathology. He ranged the length and breadth of leprosy problems, including its clinical, epidemiologic and social aspects, but to the end his views were an outgrowth of his intimate knowledge of the reactions between host and parasite as he saw them expressed in the tissues and fluids of the human body. He was a meticulous observer, and a very thoughtful one.

Wade was dedicated to accuracy, not only in his own work, but in that of others. His correspondence with authors of papers submitted to him as an editor was replete with insistence on check and recheck, and suggestions for improvement. To this was added a continued resolute stand on grammatical accuracy and a respectable literary style.

He will be remembered as a staunch fighter for his own views. He believed in them implicitly, for they were the result of long and deep reflection. In spite of all this, as a review of his correspondence shows, he was always receptive to the opinions of

³ Report of the Leonard Wood Memorial Conference on Leprosy. Held in Manila, Philippine Islands, January 9 to 23, 1931. Philippine J. Sci. **44** (1931) 449-480.

others, even though reserving the right to dissent. As in the case of so many men, his later years were clouded by physical fraility. He was unable to finish much research that was still in course at the time of his death. His declining health had been accentuated by the unhappy circumstances of internment in Culion in World War II. He retired from the scene quietly, to be remembered for what he had accomplished during his many years of active investigation. Added to that had been an equally long participation in the cooperative administrative activities necessary for scientific progress in our time.

His contributions to leprosy investigation and control were recognized in many honors and testimonials, most of which were noted in the International Journal of Leprosy. He was twice chairman, in 1952 and in 1959, of the Expert Committee on Leprosy of the World Health Organization.

Wade is survived by his wife, still living in Culion, and a sister, Miss Marjorie Wade of Millis, Massachusetts, U.S.A.—E. R. Long

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