

International Journal of Leprosy

Report of the Editor, 1964-1968

During the past five-year period the make-up of the INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF LEPROSY by subject matter has been basically that established by the original Edi-

tor, Dr. H. W. Wade, years ago, i.e., original articles, editorials, correspondence, news and notes, and current literature. A new double column format, with larger

type and other features facilitating reading ease, was set up with the initial issue for 1966 and has been followed since then. On the basis of funds available, on the one hand, and the number of acceptable original articles on the other, a total of 500 pages was then set as the current standard annual size of THE JOURNAL.

As a result of the economy inherent in the double column format it has been possible to print within 500 pages the equivalent of more than 700 pages in the old format. The Editor has felt that anything less than 500 pages in the current format would fail to do justice to the field of leprosy investigation today. This size has not been attained, however, without an annual deficit. That deficit has been largely paid, as in past years, through subsidy by the Leonard Wood Memorial. In the last two years the Memorial's subsidy has been supplemented significantly by contributions from American Leprosy Missions, Inc.

Attention is called to a number of printed supplements, designated as Part 2 of regular issues, which have extended the size of certain individual volumes well beyond the established 500 page limit. These supplements, representing the transactions of symposia, and historical compilations,

have been financed separately, in their entirety, through outside sources.

The content of THE JOURNAL during the last five years has been not unlike that of the previous five-year periods. Innovations in treatment, as noted below, have been published in increasing number. By and large the original articles published fall within the general fields of clinical course of leprosy, medical and surgical therapy, pathology, bacteriology and immunology, genetics, epidemiology and prevention, and finally mycobacterial diseases other than leprosy. The latter group constitutes a new element, formalized in 1966 by a subtitle to THE JOURNAL. The Current Literature section, consisting of abstracts of recent articles in standard medical journals, is broken down in approximately these categories. THE JOURNAL ordinarily carries 40-45 original articles and 300 abstracts a year.

It has seemed of some interest to make a comparison of the sources and subject matter of the original articles in THE JOURNAL during the three and a half decades since its founding. Pertinent data are summarized in Tables 1 and 2. With respect to the country of origin it will be noted that few consistent trends are evident. Among the thousand or more original articles pub-

TABLE 1. *Original articles by geographic source.*¹ *Grand totals.*

Region	Decade				Total
	1933-42	1943-52	1953-62	1963-67 ²	
Europe	58	22	32	33	145
Africa	26	17	37	7	87
Asia	71	16	71	59	217
Pacific Islands & Australia	43	30	39	7	119
North America ³	49	52	81	68	250
Central & South America & Caribbean	35	62	66	31	194
Total	282	199	326	205	1,012

¹ The designation of source is in one respect quite arbitrary. The count has been made with respect to the country from which a given article was submitted. Actually, for example, Europeans working in Africa and Asia, and Asians working in Africa have submitted articles that were credited to the regions rather than the countries of origin of the authors. In many cases the authorship was binational.

² Half decade.

³ Mexico has been included with the United States and Canada, although its leprosy problems have much in common with those of the Latin American countries of Central and South America. They have much in common also, however, with the leprosy problem in some of the southern states of the United States.

TABLE 2. *Original articles. Breakdown by subject and decade. Numbers of articles and per cent of totals.*

Subject	Decade									
	1933-42		1943-52		1953-62		1963-67 ¹		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Clinical course	38	13.5	16	8.1	31	9.6	30	14.2	115	11.4
Chemotherapy	40	14.2	53	26.9	59	18.2	35	16.6	187	18.4
Surgical treatment & surgical specialities	3	1.1	4	2.0	7	2.2	11	5.2	25	2.3
Pathology	52	18.5	28	14.2	69	21.3	57	27.0	206	20.5
Bacteriology & immunology	46	16.3	45	22.8	109	33.8	45	21.3	245	24.3
Epidemiology & prevention	69	24.5	35	17.8	30	9.9	9	4.3	143	14.1
Genetics	5	1.8	3	1.6	3	1.0	11	5.2	22	2.2
General & historical subjects	28	10.0	12	6.1	13	4.0	12	5.7	65	6.4
Other mycobacterial diseases	0	0	1	0.5	2	0.6	1	0.5	4	0.4
Total	281	100.0	197	100.0	323	100.0	211	100.0	1,012	100.0

¹ Half decade.

lished, the largest percentages have come from Asia and North America. During World War II and the post-war years (1945-1952) the receipt of acceptable articles was at low ebb except from North America and the Latin American countries. High ebb has been in the half decade from 1963-1967, corresponding partly to the increased number of pages in the new format of THE JOURNAL during those years.

A few points are noteworthy in subject matter. A distinct rise in the number of articles on chemotherapy occurred with the advent of sulfone treatment in the second decade. The amount of space occupied by surgery and the surgical specialties, never large, has increased somewhat. The new category of "other mycobacterial diseases" has attracted relatively few articles thus far. Lamentably, the number of printed articles on epidemiology and prevention, in spite of wide interest in these two subjects, has gone down. In the editor's view this is the field where a major increase is to be expected.

Financing THE JOURNAL has been a perennial problem. A number of recent developments, however, which have led to new plans for the future, are encouraging. These were discussed by the Council of the International Leprosy Association at the Ninth International Leprosy Congress in September of this year. The Secretary-Treasurer of the ILA will communicate with the Association's membership with regard to future plans.

Attention is called to the financial report of the Assistant Editor and Business Manager of THE JOURNAL, Miss delta derrom (pp. 451-455). The fiscal details of THE JOURNAL's operation in terms of ILA memberships, subscriptions and geographic distribution of THE JOURNAL were set forth geographically in an exhibit on THE JOURNAL set up by Miss derrom in the exhibit hall of the Leprosy Congress in London.

The Editor, on leaving office, wishes to thank the officers of the ILA, the small but efficient office staff of THE JOURNAL, the associate and contributing editors, and the

very large number of friends of THE JOURNAL who have helped the Editor by personal cooperation and constructive advice during the five-year period here covered. Special thanks are due to the two faithful translators of summaries of original articles,

Dr. Michel F. Lechat (French) and Sergio Huerta (Spanish). Great thanks are due also to the Monumental Printing Company for steady cooperation with the Editors and the Assistant Editor and Business Manager.
—E. R. L.