

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.

NEWS ITEMS

Argentina. *National conference on leprology.* The President, Dr. Marcial I. Quiroga, and the Secretary General, Dr. Luis Maria Baliña, of the Second National Reunion on Leprology, scheduled for 6-9 November 1968, have announced the session titles and chairmen and co-chairmen, respectively, for the Reunion, as follows: (1) Present situation of the endemic in different regions of the country: Dr. Carlos Maria Brusco, and Drs. Manuel M. Giménez and Augustin J. Vaccaro; (2) Modern treatment of leprosy: Prof. Dr. Juan C. Gatti, and Drs. Alberto J. Melamed and Augusto R. Mercu; (3) Prophylaxis: Prof. Dr. Enrique D. L. Jonquières, and Drs. Pascual B. Arcuri and Ernesto T. Capurro; (4) Bacteriology, immunology, susceptibility and genetic factors in leprosy: Prof. Dr. José E. Cardama, and Prof. Dr. Félix F. Wilkinson and Dr. Eduardo Castilla; (5) Physical, psychologic and familial rehabilitation of leprosy patients and the social medium: Prof. Dr. Eduardo Carboni, and Dr. Ricardo O. Manzi and Prof. Dr. Luis Maria Baliña.

Library named in honor of Stanley Stein. The Laboratorio de Investigaciones Leprológicas, in Rosario, has designated its leprosy library as the "Biblioteca Stanley Stein." At ceremonies on 15 May 1968, attended by representatives from the U. S. Embassy and other official organizations, Dr. Meny Bergel, Director of the Laboratory, read a biography of Stanley Stein and spoke of his services to mankind. A plaque commemorating Stanley Stein's work was unveiled. (*From The Star (Carville) 27 (1968) 8-9*).

Mexico. *Officers of Mexican Association for Action Against Leprosy.* The Asociación Mexicana de Acción contra la Lepra, A.C. has announced the following officers for its

Junta Directiva, elected at the XXI Asamblea General Ordinaria de Socios held on 25 April 1968. President: Dr. Fernando Latapí; Vice President: Dr. Pedro Lavalle, and as alternates, Drs. Amado Saúl and Salvador Vargas; Secretary: Dr. Mario Gómez Vidal, and as alternate, Dr. Ramón Ruiz Maldonado; Prosecretary: Dra. Yolanda Ortiz, and as alternate, Dr. Raúl Medina; Treasurer: Srita. Concepción Pérez Castro, and as alternate, Sra. Dolores T. de Malacara.

United States. *Ninth Annual ALM-PHS seminar.* The ninth annual seminar on leprosy, sponsored at Carville, Louisiana by the American Leprosy Missions, Inc. and the U. S. Public Health Service, was held 18-24 April 1968 with a faculty of participants from 10 different states and 15 foreign countries. The faculty included local hospital staff members, and, from elsewhere, Dr. Chapman H. Binford of the Leonard Wood Memorial, Washington, D. C., Dr. Paul Fasal, Chief of Leprosy Service, USPHS Hospital, San Francisco, California, Dr. Oliver W. Hasselblad, President of American Leprosy Missions, Inc., Dr. Ruperto Huerta, Secretary of the Pan American Health Organization, and Dr. C. K. Job, Professor of Pathology, Christian Medical College, Vellore, India. Dr. Herbert W. Gass, Chief of the Training Branch at Carville, described the current work of American Leprosy Missions, Inc. Reports from the mission field included papers by Elizabeth Schulz, R. N., of Burundi, Katherine Griffin, R. N., of Thailand, Aron E. Jantzen of Champa, India, Mildred Abe, R. N., of Vietnam, and Rodolphe Brechet, M. D., of Angola.

Patient enrollment at Carville, Louisiana. On 31 December 1967, the patient

enrollment at the U. S. Public Health Service Hospital at Carville, Louisiana, was 309. Of these, 202 were male and 107 female. The oldest patient was 96 and the youngest 14 years old. (From the Damien Dutton Call. Summer number, 1968.)

Regulations on treatment of leprosy patients. At its meeting on 19 April 1968, the Hawaii State Board of Health recommended new regulations governing the treatment of leprosy patients, which would allow for outpatient treatment of patients judged to be no longer able to transmit the disease. At the same time the age limit would be raised from 12 to 18 years as the earliest age at which persons would be allowed contact with a leprosy patient during any emergency home leave. The recommendations were made, according to Dr. Ira D. Hirschy, Executive Officer of the Health Department's Communicable Disease Division, because recent developments on treatment of the disease have made present regulations "unnecessarily restrictive." Some controversy exists, however, as to the replacement of the old by the newly proposed regulations. (From The Star (Carville) 27 (1968) 1.)

United Kingdom. *Report of The Leprosy Mission for 1967.* The word "Partners" has been chosen as the title for the Leprosy Mission's report for 1967. The Report, 48 pages long and well illustrated, describes work sponsored by the Mission in India, Pakistan and Nepal, Burma, Bhutan, North Australia, Korea, Hong Kong, South East Asia, and Africa. The Report also covers work done by medical staff members of Mission-supported institutions, in the course of travels to institutions in other lands. Working associations of The Leprosy Mission with American Leprosy Missions, Inc. as a partner and with organizations in Europe on specific problems are noted.

As highlights on the leprosy program in the major sites of leprosy care and field work cited above, attention is called to new and forward-looking programs of medical and social care in India, the growing influence of the Karigiri teaching program, the special problems of Purulia and numerous other stations in India, the steady develop-

ment of professional care and research in Pakistan and Nepal, special difficulties imposed in Burma by the light of political changes, and certain set-backs and how they have been met in Bhutan. Visits by professional leaders, and progress in both professional care of leprosy patients and teaching in Northern Australia, are also recorded. Special attention is given to the effective leprosy surveys in cooperation with the government in Korea, to progress in chemotherapeutic treatment of leprosy with the newer drugs in Hay Ling Chau, the Isle of Happy Healing, and to numerous severe problems in South East Asia in lands torn by war and wide-spread devastation. In Africa too, as the Report notes, the work of the Mission has been carried out in the face of (in many areas) a continuance of the disturbance and tension that characterized previous years. The Report concludes with up-to-date data, listing the fields and stations receiving full or partial support from The Leprosy Mission, and listing also the numerous agencies with which the Mission cooperates. General notices are appended on staff and other administrative matters.

India. *Training in health education.* The Gandhi Memorial Leprosy Foundation, Hindi Nagar, Wardha, has established a refresher course for medical practitioners, to facilitate their detection of cases of leprosy in general practice. Another item in the new program is the training of paramedical personnel in health education techniques. The Foundation has issued a small brochure of information on the program.

Vietnam. *Present status of leprosy.* A report by the Director-General of the World Health Organization, Dr. M. G. Candau, describes the results of a survey by staff members of the WHO on infectious diseases and malnutrition in South and North Vietnam. The public health programs of each region have been impaired, but North Vietnam appears to have suffered less than South Vietnam from the protracted war. In each case the reporting program has been seriously affected. The report covers plague, cholera, tuberculosis, leprosy and nu-

trition problems. Leprosy is endemic in both North and South Vietnam. In the South 20 leprosaria and 23 outpatient clinics have been set up. Some 25,000 cases of leprosy are registered. In the North, government sources report some 5,000 known cases. (*From summary in JAMA 203 (1968) 23*).

Philippines. *Memorial services for Dr. H. W. Wade.* Memorial services for the late Dr. H. W. Wade, formerly President of the International Leprosy Association, and Editor of the *International Journal of Leprosy*, and for many years Medical Director of the Leonard Wood Memorial and Chief Pathologist of The Culion Sanitarium at Culion, the Philippines, were held in the Conference Hall, Bureau of Quarantine in Manila on 5 July 1968. Eulogies, reviewing Dr. Wade's accomplishments in research on leprosy, and measures for its treatment and control, were delivered by Dr. Leandro V. Uyguanco, Director of the Bureau of Disease Control, and the Honorable Paulino J. Garcia, Secretary of Health, following an invocation by the Rev. Rodrigo J. Guillermo. Dr. Domingo R. Soliva, Jr. gave a vocal rendition, and Dr. Horace Delien, Chief, Public Health, U. S. Agency for International Development, responded on behalf of Mrs. Wade, who was prevented by illness from attending the services. Services were held also at the Eversley Childs Sanitarium in Cebu on 24 June 1968. Dr. Antonio P. Perez, Chief of the Sanitarium opened the services. Addresses recalling Dr. Wade's outstanding achievements in leprosy research and the control of leprosy were given by Dr. Ricardo S. Guinto and Dr. Jose N. Rodriguez. Prayers were led by the Rev. Luciano T. Bacarro. Orchestral and choir musical selections were presented.

Egypt. *Prevalence of leprosy.* The Ministry of Health has estimated that there are approximately 30,000 persons with leprosy in Egypt. Facilities for treatment are inadequate. The country's two leprosaria, located near Cairo and Alexandria, have a total of about 1,600 beds. (*From Health Data Publications No. 37, Walter Reed Army Insti-*

tute of Research, Walter Reed Army Medical Center, Washington, D.C. April 1968.)

Cameroun. *Activity at leprosarium.* Medical work at the Ndjazeng Leprosarium, which has been without a resident nurse and superintendent for 3 years is being reactivated by the former Marva Hasselblad, who is the daughter of Dr. O. W. Hasselblad, President of American Leprosy Missions, Inc., and her husband, Antoine Harle. The leprosarium is still without a doctor, but is considered by government officials to have the best potential in the country for an effective leprosy control center. (*From The Star (Carville) 27 (1968) 5.*)

Ivory Coast. *Leprosy problem.* The prevalence of leprosy in the Ivory Coast is high. A total of 11,402 new cases were detected in 1963, and 110,419 leprosy patients were registered at the end of that year. Leprosy patients are believed to comprise 3.2% of population of the Ivory Coast. The highest local rate, in the Korhogo area, was 5.4%. Some 73,000 cases were treated in 1964, chiefly with injectable sulfones, and to a less extent with sulfone tablets. Treatment centers have been set up in several areas, bringing the total number of beds for leprosy patients, by the end of 1966, to 1,300, some 400 of which were at the recently enlarged Institute of Adzope. The number, however, is quite inadequate in relation to the number of leprosy cases. Specialist medical personnel from the Institut Marchoux in Bamako visit Adzope to teach rehabilitation techniques. The social rehabilitation of physically rehabilitated leprosy patients remains a problem. (*From Health Data Publications No. 41, Walter Reed Army Institute of Research, Walter Reed Army Medical Center, Washington, D. C. January 1968.*)

Upper Volta. *Need of help in public health problems.* The Minister of Public Health of Upper Volta, in reporting to the Twenty-first World Health Assembly, noted that Upper Volta has only 65 physicians, a ratio of 1 per 76,000 inhabitants. Onchocer-

ciasis, trachoma, tuberculosis, measles and smallpox are serious menaces to the health of the population. There are approximately 140,000 cases of leprosy in the country. Medical aid is sought from the World Health Organization and other bodies that could give assistance. (*From JAMA* 204 (1968) 1155.)

Tanzania. *Prevalence of leprosy.* The disease is widely prevalent, but the total number of persons with leprosy is not known. In 1963 there were 4,500 patients in leproseries, and about 45,000 receiving sulfone treatment on an outpatient basis. Leprosy is believed to be endemic in some areas on a subclinical level; many children are observed with tuberculoid plaques that often regress spontaneously. The largest government leproseries is at Chazi, north

of Morogoro. The British Leprosy Relief Association and American Leprosy Mission, Inc. furnish financial aid. (*From Health Data Publications* No. 17, Walter Reed Army Institute of Research, Walter Reed Army Medical Center, Washington, D. C., March 1968.)

Zambia. *Cases of leprosy.* Approximately 18,000 leprosy patients are under treatment in Zambia, an increase of 7,000 in the last few years, according to American Leprosy Missions, Inc. The increase is believed to represent previously unrecognized patients attracted by modern therapy, rather than an actual increase in prevalence. At present about 5,000 patients receive therapy in 9 government and 21 mission leprosy settlements. The remainder are treated at 350 outpatient clinics.

PERSONALS

Dr. Chapman H. Binford, Medical Director of the Leonard Wood Memorial, and Chief, Special Mycobacterial Diseases Branch, Armed Forces Institute of Pathology, Washington, D.C., and newly elected Vice-President for the Americas of the International Leprosy Association, received the Ward Burdick Award of the American Society of Clinical Pathologists, 16 October 1968. The Society bestows this prize annually on a pathologist in recognition of his meritorious contributions in the science of clinical pathology.

Dr. Paul W. Brand, Chief of the Rehabilitation Branch at the U. S. Public Health Service Hospital, Carville, Louisiana, was awarded the Barclay Medal in Washington in May 1968. The award, given by the Asiatic Society, was presented to Dr. Brand for his work in India. The presentation was made by Dr. P. K. Bannerjee, acting ambassador to the United States. (*From The Star (Carville)* 27 (1968) 14.)

Floreau J. Fernandez, who held administrative positions at the U. S. Public Health Service Hospital, Carville, Louisiana from

1949 to 1963, and in the Foreign Quarantine Program in Paris from 1963 to 1968, has returned to Carville as administrative officer, taking the position left vacant on the retirement of Charles F. Byrd. (*From The Star (Carville)* 27 (1968) 14.)

Dr. Michel F. Lechat, M.D., Dr. P.H., Deputy-Director of the Louvain University's School of Public Health in Brussels, Belgium, and Professor of Epidemiology, School of Medicine, Louvain, has been appointed Professor of Public Health and Head of the new Department of Public Health and Community Medicine at Louvain University, Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of the Congo. This concurrent appointment is taking place in step with the development of joined activities between these two institutions.

Dr. John Webb, Director of the Christian Medical College and Hospital in Vellore, India, and Mrs. Webb visited the U. S. Public Health Service, Carville, Louisiana in May 1968 with the special purpose of renewing association with Dr. and Mrs. Paul W. Brand, with whom they had worked in India.