

Obituary

Cyril I. Crowther

1895-1968



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Cyril I. Crowther, President of the Leonard Wood Memorial (American Leprosy Foundation) from 1958 to 1966, died at his home in Jamaica, Long Island, New York, 28 October 1968. Born in Yonkers, New York, 4 September 1895, Mr. Crowther graduated from New York University in 1920 with his major in commerce. After studying auditing as a postgraduate student at Columbia and New York Universities, he entered the international relief field as Assistant Comptroller of the Near East Relief Foundation, continuing from 1920 to 1930 with successive service as Assistant Comptroller, Controller and Executive Secretary. In the Near East Foundation he learned the methods of successful fund raising from private and government sources.

His association with the Leonard Wood Memorial began in 1930 when he served on a part time basis as comptroller under Mr. Perry Burgess, President of the Memorial.

On the retirement of Mr. Burgess in June 1958 the Board of Trustees of the Memorial elected Mr. Crowther to succeed him as President. His introduction to leprosy as a major world problem and its many unsolved clinical and research problems began at the VIIIth International Leprosy Conference in Tokyo in November 1958. At this conference, although professionally a layman, he showed keen interest by studiously attending the scientific sessions.

During his administration, through his encouragement of fiscal support by the Board or Trustees of the Leonard Wood Memorial and by the U.S. Public Health Service, many progressive developments took place in the scientific research program of the Memorial. Included were the establishment of the Johns Hopkins—Leonard Wood Memorial Leprosy Research Laboratory in Baltimore, a laboratory for electron microscopy, a leprosy research unit at the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology, a great increase in the Memorial's training program for investigators in various fields of leprosy research, and a broad development of the Memorial's research program at Cebu in the Philippines, including the establishment of the Leonard Wood Memorial—Eversley Childs Leprosy Research Laboratory.

As the administrator of a research foundation he maintained friendly rapport with members of the Memorial's staff and Advisory Medical Board. He was highly respected by the members of the Memorial staff who were assured of his intense interest at all times in their efforts to contribute to the solution of the basic unsolved problems in leprosy.

Mr. Crowther joined the International Leprosy Association in 1958 and was an active participant in the Rio Congress in 1963. His appreciation of the value of the

INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF LEPROSY as a medium for scientific communication in leprosy made possible the continuing financial support of THE JOURNAL. In priority he placed THE JOURNAL with the research programs of the Memorial.

His dedicated interest in the Memorial's

research program caused him to accept continuing membership on its Board of Trustees after his retirement as President. This service as active participant in its deliberations continued until prevented by illness.

—CHAPMAN H. BINFORD