

INTERNATIONAL LEPROSY ASSOCIATION

Minutes of the General Meeting of Members
20 September 1968.

Held at the Imperial College of Science, South Kensington, London, during the course of the Ninth International Leprosy Congress. Simultaneous translation in English, French, Portuguese and Spanish was provided.

In the Chair: Dr. Robert G. Cochrane, President of the Association.

The Chairman reported that the Council of the Association had held three meetings during the current sessions of the Congress, viz., on 16, 18 and 19 September, noting that all items for action at the General Meeting of Members had been given careful prior consideration by the Council.

Due notice had been given in writing to all Members of the Association present at the Congress that matters affecting the Constitution of the Association would be considered at this Meeting.

1. Deceased officers and members. After calling the meeting to order, the Chairman read the names of officers and members of the Association who had died since the Rio de Janeiro Congress in 1963. He paid special tribute to three officers who had rendered outstanding service to the cause of leprosy and to the Association; these were:

- Dr. H. W. Wade, President Emeritus
- Dr. J. M. Fernández, President
- Dr. J. Ross Innes, Ex-Secretary-Treasurer

The members who have died since the 1963 Congress were:

- Dr S.. Adler
- Dr J. Allistin
- Rajkumari Amrit Kaur
- Dr. P. N. Bardhan
- Mrs. H. C. de Blaquier
- Dr. H. I. Cole
- Dr. O. Diniz
- Dr. G. Domagk
- Dr. V. P. Etcheverry
- Dr. Glyn Griffiths
- Dr. K. Hamano

- Dr. E. B. Johnwick
- Dr. E. R. Kellersberger
- Dr. S. W. A. Kuper
- Dr. K. Mitsuda
- Dr. J. O. Nolasco
- Dr. V. Pardo-Costello
- Dr. A. Pijpers
- Dr. Logan Roots
- Dr. O. M. Roots
- Dr. C. M. Ross
- Dr. C. Sisiruca Q.
- Dr. S. G. Spickett
- Rev. J. Sweeney
- Dr. Margaret Whang

The members were asked to stand in silence as a mark of respect, to pay their tribute of gratitude for the life and work of their deceased colleagues.

Ninth International Leprosy Congress, 1968. Before proceeding with the items on the Agenda, the Chairman expressed the gratitude of all the participants in the Congress to Dr. Stanley G. Browne, the Secretary-Treasurer, for the "extremely efficient and, indeed, brilliant way he had organized the Congress." The members demonstrated their concurrence.

Election of officers of the Association. The Chairman reminded the meeting that officers of the Association are elected by the members. The Council had considered this matter at some length, having regard to geographic representation and the eminence of suitable members in the world of leprosy. The Council put forward certain nominations, unanimously, and hoped that these nominations would be accepted by the members and that the candidates would be duly elected.

President. Dr. Jacinto Convit (Venezuela) was the only nomination. On a show of hands, Dr. Convit was declared elected.

President-Emeritus. The Secretary-Treasurer, speaking on behalf of the Council,

suggested that the ex-President, Dr. R. G. Cochrane (England and India) should be given the title of President Emeritus as a mark of distinction and honor for his services to the cause of leprosy for more than forty years. Put to the meeting, this suggestion was approved with acclamation. Dr. Cochrane replied suitably, acknowledging this manifestation of the esteem in which he is held by his colleagues.

Honorary Vice-Presidents. On the recommendation of the Council, the names of Drs. E. Agricola (Brazil) and Dharmendra (India) were placed before the meeting, and unanimously approved.

Some councillors having proposed the name of Dr. K. Kitamura for the office of Honorary Vice-President, in view of his leadership in leprosy investigation in Japan over the years, the Chairman put his name to the Meeting. The members signified their approval.

The Chairman informed the members that Dr. Agricola would have attended the Congress, but for a recent unfortunate accident. On the suggestion of the Chairman, the Secretary-Treasurer was instructed to convey to Dr. Agricola the greetings of the members and their best wishes for his speedy recovery.

Vice-Presidents. The Chairman called on the Secretary-Treasurer to explain the considerations that had guided the Council in its proposals for the office of three representative Vice-Presidents. The Chairman put the Council's nominations to the meeting as follows:

Americas Region: Dr. Chapman H. Binford, U.S.A.

Central Region (Europe/Africa): Dr. Felix Contreras Duenas, Spain

Eastern Region: Dr. Jose N. Rodriguez, Philippines

There being no other nominations, these three candidates were elected on a show of hands.

Councillors. The Secretary-Treasurer announced the Council's recommendations as follows:

Dr. L. M. Baliña	Argentina
Dr. L. M. Bechelli	Brazil
Dr. R. S. Guinto	Philippines

Dr. J. H. Hanks	U.S.A.
Gen. J. Languillon	Mali
Dr. M. F. Lechat	Belgium
Dr. B. D. Molesworth	Malawi
Dr. F. E. A. Rabello	Brazil
Dr. K. Ramanujam	India
Dr. R. J. W. Rees	England
Dr. A. Rotberg	Brazil
Dr. C. C. Shepard	U.S.A.
Dr. R. V. Wardekar	India
Dr. Y. Yoshie	Japan

There being no nominations from the floor, the Chairman declared these councillors duly elected, pointing out that five of the councillors were elected for the first time: Drs. Baliña, Guinto, Ramanujam, Shepard and Yoshie.

Editor, International Journal of Leprosy. The Chairman, on behalf of all the members, paid tribute to the excellent work of Dr. Esmond R. Long as Editor of THE JOURNAL over the past few years, since the Rio de Janeiro Congress (1963), and regretted that Dr. Long felt that the time had come for him to relinquish the office. Dr. Long thanked the Chairman and members for this expression of their gratitude and regard, and offered to help the new Editor in any way he could.

The Chairman then put to the meeting the unanimous recommendation of the Council that Dr. Olaf K. Skinsnes, Professor of Pathology in the University of Hawaii, should be elected to succeed Dr. Long. He shared with the members his high opinion of the experience and the capabilities of Dr. Skinsnes, and suggested that he would bring to his task an almost unique combination of qualities of editorship. The meeting heartily and gratefully endorsed the Council's recommendation.

Secretary-Treasurer. The Chairman put to the meeting the unanimous desire of the Council that Dr. Stanley G. Browne should continue as Secretary-Treasurer. He had earned the confidence of all in his dual capacity as Secretary-Treasurer of the International Leprosy Association for the past three years, and as Secretary-General of the present Congress. The meeting approved the Council's nomination with acclamation.

Changes in the Constitution. The Chairman reminded the meeting that due notice had been given of certain financial changes that the Council had resolved to bring to the General Meeting of Members, and called upon the Secretary-Treasurer to make a statement on behalf of the Council.

(a) The Secretary-Treasurer briefly reviewed the financial state of the Association, stressing the ever-widening gap between rising costs and lagging income. For the benefit of some members, he repeated the gist of his statements in *THE JOURNAL* (36 (1968) 223), to the effect that had it not been for the very generous grants, from year to year, of the Leonard Wood Memorial, the Association and its official organ, the *INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF LEPROSY*, would never have seen the light of day, or—if they had—would have been puny and stunted. The Leonard Wood Memorial had played a most notable and worthy part in the dissemination of new knowledge about leprosy. The Chairman suggested that a suitable letter of thanks be sent to the President of the Leonard Wood Memorial for transmission to his Board.

Since, however, the finances of the Association needed to be placed on a firmer footing, and since members themselves had an obligation to keep the Association solvent, the Chairman put to the meeting the Council's decision that membership dues should be increased from US \$10 to US \$15 (£4 3s 6d to £6 5s 0d), an increase of 50 per cent. After some discussion, the meeting, on a show of hands, approved this proposition. The Chairman assured the members that all possible sources of income (such as advertisements in *THE JOURNAL*, sustaining membership subscriptions, the bearing of page costs by bodies that sponsor published research, etc.), had been and would continue to be actively reviewed by the Editor and the Finance Committee that the Council had appointed (Chapman H. Binford, Chairman, R. J. W. Rees and Jacinto Convit (see Report of the Finance Committee to the Council, p. 558).

(b) On the advice of the Secretary-Treasurer, the members agreed that the issuing of annual membership cards was no

longer necessary; other learned societies and professional bodies had discontinued the practice. The Secretary-Treasurer was instructed, however, to issue such cards to new members of the Association when they joined.

(c) The Chairman informed the members that the Council had set up a small committee to examine the present constitution and to recommend any changes they considered desirable.

Next congress, 1973. The Chairman informed the members that in view of the forthcoming centenary of the pioneer work of G. Armauer Hansen and his discovery of the association of *Mycobacterium leprae* with the disease entity called "leprosy," the Council thought it would be fitting if the next congress were to be held in Scandinavia, in Bergen, Norway. He had received an official letter from the Norwegian Government, inviting the Association to hold its Tenth Congress in Bergen in August 1973. He put this invitation to the meeting. On a show of hands, it was accepted.

Certain members dissented from the majority decision. Proposals were made that the next congress should be held in Mexico City, Mexico, or in Buenos Aires, Argentina. Two speakers informed the meeting that they were the bearers of official invitations from the governments concerned. The President affirmed the Council's recommendation and the decision of the present meeting, an overwhelming majority of members having signified their approval to accept the invitation from Norway. The Chairman called on the Secretary-Treasurer to make a statement on behalf of the Council, who mentioned the considerable progress that had been made since the initial pourparlers inaugurated many months ago on the unanimous advice of the Council, culminating in the receipt of the official invitation from the Norwegian Government, part of which he read to the meeting.

On the suggestion of the Chairman, the members instructed the Secretary-Treasurer to convey to the Governments of Mexico and Argentina, through the members who had just brought orally the invitations from their respective governments,

the grateful thanks of the Association for their kind interest and gracious invitations, expressing at the same time the hope that future congresses might be held in those countries.

There being no other business, the Chairman declared the meeting closed.

R. G. COCHRANE, *Chairman*
S. G. BROWNE, *Secretary-
Treasurer*