

## Meeting of French-Speaking Leprologists

*Chairman: Dr. F. P. Merklen*

In the course of the Ninth International Leprosy Congress, thanks to the good offices of its Secretary-General, Dr. S. G. Browne, the Association of French-Speaking Leprologists was able to hold an informational meeting on 20 September 1968.

At this meeting it was possible to define the objective of this Association, which was founded in October 1967, at Hammamet in Tunis at the time of a symposium organized by the *Société de Biologie Humaine et de Transfusion Sanguine* of the African countries and those of the Middle East. There was no question of creating a new body duplicating the activities of existing organizations; on the contrary the French-speaking leprologists wish to work in liaison with these associations and especially with

the International Leprosy Association.

The objective of the French-speaking leprologists is to aid doctors and paramedical workers in charge of the antileprosy campaign in French-speaking countries. It must be remembered that in general the latter are not specialists, and that it is essential to provide them with documentation oriented to their practical problems, including information on the latest scientific advances in leprology.

This association would also stimulate in French-speaking countries an analysis of the leprosy endemic in relation to the economic resources available, the only way that will lead to a real solution of the problem.

This association, whose temporary office

is headed by Professor F. Merklen of Paris, has decided to appoint a certain number of technical advisers and honorary members, and has expressed the hope of holding a General Assembly in Paris in the year 1970. These objectives, although relatively mod-

est, will naturally run into numerous material difficulties; their success will depend on the will and interest which all those concerned with leprosy, particularly in French-speaking countries, will bring to the task.—M. F. LECHAT