

Foreword

Our colloquia are meetings of scientists who are familiar with the general problem and are working on specific questions, who will inform each other about previously unknown results, who will give each other new ideas, and, last but not least, who wish to summarize the actual state of knowledge with all its gaps in order to draw conclusions for further research. This Colloquium will contribute to outlining the present situation in leprosy research.

The Borstel Institute offers an opportunity for scientists of different departments to participate in this common task, and to work together undisturbed by daily bustle, scientists whose purposes are to formulate ideas and to discuss and decide open questions.

The present volume of the *International Journal of Leprosy* contains the lectures and discussions of this Colloquium, covering the gamut of leprosy in its main aspects. The greatest amount of time has been scheduled for Pathology, Bacteriology, Experimental Therapy, Experimental Immunology, Clinic, Epidemiology and Vaccination, Surgery, Orthopedics and Rehabilitation, on which subjects top-experts expressed their opinions resulting from their clinical and experimental knowledge.

This is why this volume is suitable not only for a reader who wishes to inform himself about all areas of leprosy research, but also for any one's purpose to learn the new movements and course in this field, with the particular orientation of "leprosy help through leprosy research", as H. Kober, in the name of the Deutsches Aussätzigen-Hilfswerk, formulated this objective.

We are especially grateful to the Deutsches Aussätzigen-Hilfswerk. Without its cooperation we could not have begun with this Colloquium. We also express our gratitude to the curatorial board of the Forschungsinstitut Borstel for having a real understanding of our problems and for giving assistance to our projects. On the other hand, we are grateful to the speakers of the Colloquium, who came from far and near to Borstel.

Finally, we indicate our gratitude to the editorial board of the *International Journal of Leprosy*, who enable the printing of the papers read at this Colloquium.

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The Forschungsinstitut Borstel is indebted to the Deutsches Aussätzigen-Hilfswerk for having supported this International Leprosy Colloquium and for the printing of this volume.