

LEPROSY NEWS

Information concerning institutions, organizations and individuals connected with leprosy work, scientific or other meetings, acts of legislatures, and other matters of interest to leprosy workers. Readers are invited to cooperate by sending in material of such nature.

THE ANTILEPROSY CAMPAIGN IN ARGENTINA

A recent publication by the Asociación Argentina de Dermatología y Sifilología (with which are connected the hygienists and others especially concerned in the leprosy problem in the Argentine) deals with the present situation in that country as brought out at a special meeting held in July, 1934. The presentation is forensic rather than factual, designed to stimulate official action; but appended to it are resolutions adopted by representative bodies in recent years.

I. RESOLUTIONS OF THE FOURTH NATIONAL CONGRESS OF MEDICINE, BUENOS AIRES, OCTOBER, 1931

The Fourth National Congress of Medicine, held in Buenos Aires on October 11, 1931, approved the following resolutions proposed by Sections of Dermato-syphilography and Social Hygiene of the same Congress:

The Fourth National Congress of Medicine, heedful of the continual increase of the scourge of leprosy in the country and its present and future gravity:

1. Advises the public authorities concerned to put into effect with the greatest urgency the existing provisions of law for the prophylaxis and treatment of leprosy.

2. Appeals to the authorities of the provinces and municipalities where leprosy exists recommending that they, for their own interest and that of the nation, exert their utmost efforts for the immediate and effective application of the law hereinbefore mentioned, and

3. With this same object, declares that the asylum-colonies and dispensaries intended for the segregation and care of leper patients that are already constructed, or are to be constructed in accordance with law by the health authorities of the nation in the provinces having the largest numbers of lepers, far from offering danger to the cities and municipalities near them constitute one of their best safeguards.

II. RESOLUTIONS OF THE FIRST NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON SOCIAL AID
BUENOS AIRES, NOVEMBER, 1933

Section No. 22, Social Aid in Leprosy, of the First National Conference on Social Aid, held in Buenos Aires on November 23 and 24, 1933, declares that:

1. Agreeing that syphilis and leprosy are intimately related as regards their study and with respect to their sanitary prophylaxis and treatment, the same diseases have connections which at times are very close, wherefore it seems advisable that for the next National Conference on Social Aid the sections on syphilis and leprosy shall function as one.

2. Advises the public authorities concerned to put into effect with the greatest urgency the existing provisions of law for the sanitary prophylaxis and treatment of leprosy.

3. Appeals to the authorities of the provinces and municipalities where leprosy exists recommending that they, for their own interest and that of the nation, exert their utmost efforts for the immediate and effective application of the law hereinbefore mentioned.

4. Declares that the asylum-colony already constructed on the Island of Cerrito—the equipment of which is strongly urged—and those contemplated in other provinces in accordance with law by the health authorities of the nation, far from offering dangers to the cities and municipalities near them constitute one of their best safeguards.

5. Advises that the funds from the public treasury intended for the fight against leprosy be used exclusively for the establishment of asylums and dispensaries provided for under Act No. 11,359, which constitute, according to unanimous opinion, the most important factor in the antileprosy campaign.

6. With respect to the creation of an experimental institute of leprology, separate from the organization expressly designated by law, this Section considers it inadvisable. On the other hand, it urges the creation of a special section of leprology in the Bacteriological Institute of the Department of National Hygiene, and research laboratories in the asylum-colonies to be constructed and equipped.

III. RESOLUTIONS OF THE FIFTH NATIONAL CONGRESS OF MEDICINE
ROSARIO, SEPTEMBER, 1934

The Section of Dermatology and Syphilology of the Fifth National Congress of Medicine, held in Rosario de Santa Fe, September 2 - 8, 1934, declares that:

1. It makes known to the public authorities its desire that the establishment of segregation colonies—the center of the antileprosy campaign in the country—be realized simultaneously in the areas of greatest morbidity, of course under the technical and administrative direction of the health authorities charged with the execution of Act No. 11,359.

2. It strongly endorses the decision of the Superior Government, and that of the Legislative Power, allotting funds for the immediate construction of buildings in the Island of Cerrito, intended as a regional asylum for lepers.

3. It maintains, in accordance with the unanimous opinion of the Argentinian dermatologists and hygienists, that it would be unfortunate for the early antileprosy organization of the country to change the purpose for which the Maximiliano Aberastury Asylum, named as such by a just decree of the Executive Power of the Nation, was intended from the beginning.

CARLOS CHAGAS

Professor Carlos Chagas, since 1917. director of the Instituto Oswaldo Cruz, Rio de Janeiro, and director of the International Center of Leprology at that place, died suddenly on November 8, 1934, from an attack of angina pectoris.

Dr. Chagas was born in the City of Oliveira, Minas Geraes, Brazil, on May 25, 1879. Since 1909, when he discovered the American trypanosomiasis, his name has become universally known. He was very active in scientific work for more than a quarter of a century and published many studies on tropical diseases, for which he was given honorary titles by various countries and universities. He was also famous as a teacher and an orator. His death is a great loss to Brazil and to medical science.

DUNCAN MAIN

Dr. David Duncan Main, one of the most devoted medical missionaries of modern times and one who especially concerned himself with the care of victims of leprosy, died suddenly in England early last September, at the age of seventy-eight.

A native of Ayrshire, while still a medical student in Edinburgh he devoted himself to mission work, according to an obituary in *The Life of Faith*, of London. In 1881, having recently married, he and his bride went to China under the Church Missionary Society. Stationed in Hangchow, where the need for medical work was appalling, he started with a small four-room house, containing sixteen beds, but was able within three years to lay the foundation stone for a hospital. When he retired, in 1926, after forty-six years of service, he left two hospitals—one for men and the other for women—a lock hospital, a maternity hospital, a leprosy asylum, a hospital for consumptives, convalescent sanatoriums for Chinese ladies and gentlemen, a home for incurables, fresh-air homes, rest homes for workers, an almshouse, a ragged school, medical and pharmacy col-

leges, a training school for nurses, and accommodations for insane patients.

The beginning of the leprosy asylum was a refuge established with the help of the Mission to Lepers (British). This developed into an asylum with a capacity of about 100 patients, and led to efforts on behalf of untainted children of leper parents, a home being opened which in due course afforded shelter also to other children.

NEWS ITEMS

Developments at the Biederwolf colony.—A recent number of the *Christian Graphic*, a monthly periodical published in Tokyo, has three pages of rotogravure pictures of this colony, which is located at Junten (Soonchun), Korea. One is a group picture showing the ten couples, each with their adopted child, that were recently married there after vasectomy had been performed on the men. These people, it is stated, are now nearly self-supporting. In an accompanying letter it is said that because land could not be purchased for an extension of the colony, work has been started to reclaim a considerable area from the sea, the inmates providing the labor.

Further foci in China.—Two new leprosy centers in northwestern Szechuen have come to attention, according to Dr. James L. Maxwell. One is around Mow Kung, which is shown in the maps, and the other is at a place called Ping Wu, a long way north of Mow Kung and on the border of the Province of Kansu. Both areas are very mountainous, and in the latter one among the snow peaks is a valley known as the Leper Valley.

Lottery winner at Culion.—In the National Charity Sweepstakes, a lottery controlled by the Philippine Government involving prizes in excess of a million pesos (U. S. \$500,000) that was run off in Manila on December 15, 1934, the ticket held by one of the inmates of the Culion Leper Colony won a prize of P100,000. This man, who at the time was a truck driver for the colony electric company, was immediately the object of attention of many individuals and several organizations desirous of sharing his fortune.

More patients for Makogai.—The Makogai hospital, Fiji, which with its several races collected from a considerable area of the Pacific would seem to be a minor League of Nations, is about to be added to in this respect according to information received. The Gilbert and Ellis group has entered into negotiations with the Government of Fiji with a view to sending their cases, said to be about forty, to Makogai.

Trial of chaulphosphate at Rio.—Last October Dr. and Mrs. Hamilton H. Anderson arrived at Rio de Janeiro, commissioned by the University of California, San Francisco, to continue here their researches on the treatment of leprosy with "chaulphosphate," according to Dr. H. C. de Souza-Araujo. Their work in Brazil was done in connection with the International Center of Leprology, which gave them all possible facilities. Dr. Anderson is working both in Rio, at the National Leprosarium of Curupaity, and in Minas Geraes, at the State Leper

Colony Santa Isabel, with the cooperation of the physicians of both institutions. Besides the treatment of leprosy patients Dr. and Mrs. Anderson are doing interesting work in the field of biochemistry of leprosy.

Leprosy instruction in Brazil.—Last October Dr. H. C. de Souza-Araujo gave, at the city of Ponte Nova, Minas Geraes, a week's course in leprosy and its control for rural school teachers and farmers. More than 200 female teachers attended the course.

Mission to Lepers meeting.—The annual meeting of the American Mission to Lepers was held in New York, October 17 and 18, 1934. Among the speakers were Dr. John L. Rice, Commissioner of Health of New York City, who told of what is done with patients in that city. Several men from foreign countries dealt with activities in their fields, these representatives including Dr. H. C. Tucker, president of the Brazil Mission to Lepers; the Rev. T. C. Wu, general secretary of the Chinese Mission to Lepers, Shanghai; Rev. C. S. Vaughan and Dr. Harriet P. Vaughan, founders of the Dayapuram Leper Hospital, Manamadura, India; Mr. Cary Weisiger, from the Naini Leper Home, India; and Mr. George A. Fitch, general secretary, Y.M.C.A., Shanghai, who dealt with the leprosy hospital in Jerusalem. Other speakers were Miss Frances Wooding of Tabriz, Persia, Dr. G. R. Causar of Lubondai, Belgian Congo, Rev. Emil W. Menzel of Chandkuri, India, and Dr. H. S. Hollenbeck of Cuma, Portuguese West Africa. Motion pictures were shown of the opening of Abyssinia's first leprosy hospital, in the capital city, Addis Ababa.

Leprosy lectures, Collège de France.—On account of illness of Dr. Ch. Nicolle, director of the Institut Pasteur of Tunis, his place as lecturer in the Chaire de Médecine at the Collège de France will be filled this year by Dr. Etienne Burnet, of the secretariat of the League of Nations. This institution, founded in 1530, early in the Renaissance, by François I as a liberal institution in opposition to the conservatism and theologism of the University of Paris (Sorbonne) of that time, is one of the highest and most celebrated centers of teaching, and an appointment to its faculty is considered a special honor. Dr. Burnet has selected leprosy as the subject of the twenty lectures which he will give.

Personals.—DR. VICTOR G. HEISER, who since 1915 has been connected with the Rockefeller Foundation, of which he was Director for the Far East, states in a letter written in December last that he expected to retire from the Foundation on January 1. Thereafter, he was to have an office at the Leonard Wood Memorial, and would devote himself in part to the furthering of the work of the International Leprosy Association, of which he is president.

DR. N. E. WAYSON, Surgeon, United States Public Health Service, is, according to the same letter from Dr. Heiser, to be transferred from his station as Director of the Leprosy Investigation Station in Honolulu, this being in keeping with the policy of the Service to limit the period of its personnel in any special field.

Arrangements have been made whereby DR. J. G. WOOLLEY, acting assistant surgeon, U.S.P.H.S., now stationed at the National Institute of Health but formerly at the Federal leprosy station in Louisiana, will assume the duties of contributing editor of the JOURNAL for the United States and territories, vice Dr.

Wayson. Dr. Wolley has also agreed to assist in this work with regard to other countries in the New World for which it has not yet been possible to effect satisfactory arrangements directly.

DR. ROBERT G. COCHRANE, secretary of the British Empire Leprosy Relief Association, has recently visited the West Indies in connection with the work of the Association, proceeding by way of New York and the U. S. Federal leprosarium at Carville, Louisiana. He returned to London in the latter part of November.

DR. JOHN REENSTIERNA, of Stockholm, Sweden, who has recently been made Professor in Uppsala, planned to accompany Dr. Cochrane on his tour but was taken ill in New York and was unable to proceed further. It is understood that on advice of physicians he returned to Sweden.

DR. REIDAR MELSOM, a dermatologist who for the past year has been the assistant physician at the Pleiestiftelsen for Spedalske No. 1, in Bergen, Norway, is expected to succeed Dr. H. P. Lie as the physician in charge when the latter retires from his official position next summer.

DR. C. J. AUSTIN, director of the Central Leper Hospital, Makogai, Fiji, has recently returned from long leave and resumed his duties.

DR. JAMES L. MAXWELL, of the Henry Lester Institute, Shanghai, has recently spent a month in South China, viewing the leprosy work in Amoy, Swatow, Canton, Hongkong and other places, and conferring with the officials concerned with the advancement of that work.

DR. A. DUBOIS, of the Institut de Médecine Tropical of Anvers, who has spent the past year at Pawa, in the Belgian Congo, setting up a leprosy center under the Croix-Rouge du Congo, has returned to Belgium.

MR. PERRY BURGESS, president of the Leonard Wood Memorial, spent November and January in the Philippines, December in the Netherlands East Indies and Malaya, and returned to New York via China and Japan where he spent some time. He visited many leprosy institutions and developed plans for the extension of the work of the Memorial.

Members of the International Leprosy Association attending the Ninth Congress of the Far Eastern Association of Tropical Medicine at Nanking in October, 1934, included LT. COL. A. J. H. RUSSEL, of Delhi, India; DRs. C. DE LANGEN, of Batavia, N. E. I.; G. A. RYRIE, of Sungei Buloh, F. M. S.; C. L. PARK, of Singapore, S. S.; H. W. WADE, of Cullion, P. I.; M. OTA, of Sendai, Japan; and DRs. WU LIEN-TEH, JAMES L. MAXWELL, and D. G. LAI, of Shanghai, C. N. FRAZIER, of Peiping, and L. H. HUIZENGA, of Jukao. After the Congress Drs. Ryrie and Wade visited the leprosy clinics in Shanghai, and the latter spent a week at Swatow for the same purpose.