

NEWS and NOTES

This department furnishes information concerning institutions, organizations, and individuals engaged in work on leprosy and other mycobacterial diseases, and makes note of scientific meetings and other matters of interest.

Africa. Kuluva, Uganda. For 13 years Dr. E. H. Williams, Medical Superintendent, Africa Inland Mission Hospital, has been entrusted by the Government with the supervision and planning of a district-wide leprosy control scheme among 500,000 people in an area of 4,000 square miles. About 40 clinics operate weekly, treating over 2,000 patients. In the past 13 years of the scheme approximately 8,000 leprosy patients received treatment with 2,000 discharged symptom-free. After results were evident the Government supported the plan. Dr. Williams attributes the success of the program to The Leprosy Mission for its grants to him when he first began the control scheme and for its continuing support over the years.—(*Adapted from Without the Camp*, No. 300 [1971] 66)

Lambarene—A new look. Important decisions regarding the future role of the Dr. Albert Schweitzer Hospital in Lambarene, Republic of Gabon, were made at a meeting consisting of representatives of various member-countries of the international association held in Strasbourg, March 18-19, 1972. The principle was accepted that a Leprosy Rehabilitation Center be created in proximity to the existing hospital and that funds be raised for the financing of this project.

The prevalence of leprosy in the Gabonese Republic is estimated to be 30 per 1,000, with a total of about 15,000 leprosy sufferers needing treatment. Of this number, some 3,000 to 5,000 probably require some kind of reconstructive surgery or rehabilitation. So far, the *Service des Grandes Endémies*, faced with other serious infections and parasitic diseases, has not been able to tackle the deformities caused by leprosy. The proposed service will therefore fill a gap in the Gabonese health services, and hence has the full approbation of the authorities. Conscious of the need for creat-

ing an inexpensive installation, the international council will plan the buildings on a modest scale in keeping with the needs of the country. The facilities will include clinical examination rooms, small laboratory, operating theaters for surgery, shoemaking shop, workshop for prostheses, physiotherapy room and small wards for both male and female patients.

In agreement with modern views on the integration of leprosy into general health services, the center will also, it is hoped, help patients whose deformities are due to such conditions as poliomyelitis, tuberculosis, trauma, etc.

The other medical services which have hitherto been provided in the "old" Lambarene will continue as long as they fulfill a need.—S. G. Browne

Argentina. Celebration of Hansen's discovery in Argentina. G.R.I.H.A.N. (Grupos de Investigación de la Enfermedad de hansen), an institution dedicated in Argentina to bring up to date the image of leprosy and the promotion of research in medical, sociological and psychological fields, has organized an essay competition open to residents in Argentina for the best essay on new approaches to leprosy. The prize will be announced during the International Leprosy Congress. Several prominent writers participated in a seminar held in Buenos Aires by leprologists and social workers and are now writing their work which shall be submitted to a jury of outstanding writers. A bust of Hansen will be unveiled in a prominent place and a street in Buenos Aires will be given Hansen's name and it is hoped that this monument will be a document for the future to remember the contribution of this famous Norwegian to mankind. It is also suggested that World Leprosy Week, to be held in February 1973, be dedicated in Argentina

as well as in other countries to stress the meaning of 100 years of scientific work in leprosy and its actual and future implications. The committee responsible for instigating many of these centenary events is composed of Dr. L. M. Baliña, President, Dr. J. E. Cardama, Dr. Juan C. Gatti and Mrs. María L. B. de Portal, Secretary.—L. M. Baliña

England. A Golden Jubilee. Mr. Donald A. Miller celebrated on January 5, 1972, fifty years of association with The Leprosy Mission; first as a missionary in India and later as General Secretary for 18 years. The Mission initiated many new projects and widened its work under his leadership. He was awarded the Kaiser-i-Hind Gold Medal and the M.B.E., and since his retirement in 1960, Mr. Miller has been a member of the General Council of the Mission; he was consultant to the Mission from 1960 to 1963 and is now a vice-president.—(*Adapted from In Action*, Second quarter [1972] 37)

Reconstructive Surgery in Leprosy, by Dr. Ernest Fritschi, a staff member of ALERT, Addis Ababa, has recently been published by John Wright and Sons, Ltd., of Bristol, England, at the price of £3.25.

Dr. Fritschi worked together with Paul Brand in Karigiri and Vellore, where he developed a great flair for teaching and demonstrating surgical techniques. At the urgings of his students, he combined the notes from his lectures and surgical demonstrations and published them in this book. It is not a book for laymen but for surgeons wishing to learn standard operating procedures for leprosy, for busy doctors in charge of leprosy control programs needing a brush-up course in surgery, and also for orthopedic specialists in developed countries who at times must work with patients whose conditions are due to the paralysis and deformity of leprosy.—(*Adapted from In Action*, First quarter [1972] 18)

The role of voluntary agencies. A joint consultation on the role of voluntary agencies in leprosy during the coming decade, organized by The British Leprosy Relief Association, The Leprosy Mission and the St. Francis Leprosy Guild, was held in London on March 24-25, 1972. It was agreed

that the eventual integration of leprosy diagnosis and treatment into the general medical services was a desirable target, but in the meantime it was the duty of voluntary organizations to do all in their power to insure that the individual suffering from leprosy had the chance of treatment. Several aspects to be encouraged and pursued by voluntary agencies were discussed: continuing to subsidize treatment programs in the hope that the reservoir of bacilliferous patients might thereby be reduced, with demonstrable results in the decline of the endemic and reduction in the annual incidence of new infections; training of staff and recruitment and retention in leprosy service of well-qualified persons, especially doctors; funding a larger portion of the budgets to finance potential research workers and to encourage their projects by special supporting grants; investigating other fruitful fields for research in leprosy, such as better drugs for treatment, epidemiological surveys, problem of transmission of leprosy and the production of an effective vaccine. Voluntary agencies do not need to cover the same ground; there is room for different and complementary approaches, but they should agree upon the principal basic medical assumptions about leprosy in their fund-raising activities.—S. G. Browne

Without the Camp. The Leprosy Mission's quarterly magazine, will have a new title as of 1972. Today a major need in leprosy education is to convince peoples all over the world that leprosy is a disease which can be treated like other infectious diseases, that those afflicted can be cared for within their own communities without isolation, and that true love for those who suffer lies in making certain that the best of treatment and techniques reaches as many as possible. Consequently, after much prayerful thought and discussion, the title of the magazine *Without the Camp* will be *The Leprosy Mission in Action*, but in presentation the word *Action* will be the focus. In changing the title of the magazine, the Mission is not changing its character. As a Christian Society, The Leprosy Mission continues the work of Christ in healing and redeeming suffering men and women through the use of modern skills and approaches but

adding the ferment of faith to bring to the individual a purpose of life. (No. 300 [1971] 63)

Ethiopia. ALERT. Since 1966, David and Ingrid Ward and Jane Neville have been with ALERT, but now they are leaving. David and his family are going back to England where David will take up further studies in his profession. Jane Neville will go to the United States where she will spend a year of study in the science of education and in the field of anthropology.

Jane Neville can also be proud of her accomplishments as head of the Occupational Therapy and Health Education Department. The service in her department has improved considerably, and her counterpart, Sister Manalosh, has had good supervision from Jane and is now going to run the department in Jane's absence.—(Adapted from ALERT NEWS, Vol. II, No. 7, 1972)

ALERT. The 6th Annual General Meeting of members of the All-Africa Leprosy Rehabilitation and Training Center was held in Addis Ababa, 10 March 1972. The General Meeting, preceded by practical and helpful workshops which determined the priorities to be attempted over the next five years, expressed sober satisfaction at the progress being made and agreed to ensure a "reasonable degree of financial stability" for the next five years.

Courses of instruction have been provided for doctors, nurses, and other persons working in the field of leprosy. The district leprosy control service has been developed and intensified. Prostheses and protective footwear have been made in increasing numbers. In all departments, teaching materials have been collected and put to use. A gratifying feature of the past year has been the increasing number of African countries making use of the teaching courses at ALERT, with some of the students being sponsored by WHO.

In the Princess Zenebework Hospital some degree of integration is being attempted. Patients with skin diseases providing leprosy workers with a diagnostic challenge are admitted to the wards, while outpatients in increasing numbers are being treated in all-purpose clinics. ALERT with

its competent staff and excellent facilities should prove to be of great use to African countries requiring inspiration for their leprosy programs and effective training for their staff.

Associated with ALERT is the Armauer Hansen Research Institute financed by Scandinavian countries. The Institute is already making its mark in fundamental immunological research, and some of its findings are already appearing in the international scientific press.—S. G. Browne

France. Association de Leprologues de Langue Francaise. The Association held its second congress in the historic St. Louis Hospital in Paris, September 8-10, 1971. The participants represented many different countries as well as the French Ministry of Health, the Order of Malta, ELEM, and WHO. The International Leprosy Association was represented by its Secretary-Treasurer, who is also a *Conseiller Technique* to the French Association.

This scientific meeting consisted of numerous papers covering many aspects of leprosy work: leprosy campaigns in various countries; up-to-date information on clofazimine, rifampicin, ethionamide, dapsone and long-acting sulphonamides; treatment of reaction in leprosy by thalidomide and immunosuppressive drugs; and recent attempts at cultivation of *M. leprae*; on skin reactions to different allergies and on cell-mediated immunity. Reports were also presented on the successful investigations of French surgical teams in France and Africa. Professor Merklen, the President, was ably assisted in the organization of this congress by Professor Cottenot and by the Secretary-General of the Association, Professor Basset. The principal papers presented at the congress and summaries of the discussions will be published in *Acta Leprologica*.—S. G. Browne

Greece. Tropical Medicine and Malaria—9th International Congress, is to be held in Athens, October 1973.

In view of the growing interest in the specific aspects of leprosy and the important recent advances in research, the Organizing Committee of the Congress has de-

cided to include two sessions on leprosy in the program. The section on leprosy, Division A, will begin on Monday, October 15, 1973. The General Secretary of the Congress is: Professor J. Papavassiliou, P.O. Box 1373, Athens, Greece; and the Organizer for the Leprosy Section is Dr. S. G. Browne, 57a Wimpole Street, London W1M 7DF, England. Further information will be published as soon as it becomes available. Meanwhile, intending participants, and especially those who wish to submit scientific communications, are invited to make contact with Dr. Browne.—S. G. Browne

Hong Kong. *Hay Ling Chau Leprosarium*, it is announced by the Hong Kong Government, will close in 1974. After 20 years of leprosy treatment and control, it is estimated that by 1974 there will be fewer than 80 patients requiring hospital care and these will be treated in the infectious disease unit of a large new hospital whose construction has begun at Lai Chi Kok. Residential accommodation and care for patients unable to look after themselves due to deformity of leprosy will be provided for elsewhere.—(*Adapted from In Action*, Second quarter [1972] 28)

Switzerland. *Rehabilitation of the disabled.* A meeting of delegates from the United Nations convened in Geneva from 27 September to 6 October 1971. These representatives were experts in the field of planning, organizing and administering national programs for rehabilitation of the disabled in developing nations. A delegation from the Council of World Organizations interested in the handicapped represented the voluntary organizations. The meeting recommended the creation of national councils or boards to be officially responsible for planning and coordinating, for recommending legislative measures, and for establishing, where indicated, a pilot demonstration project, preferably in an urban center and attached to a university. It was decided that the state should be responsible for the rehabilitation of the disabled; but voluntary bodies still have an important role to maintain in many countries. In a national campaign the education of

professional staff in all aspects of rehabilitation should be of first priority. Those particularly concerned with the rehabilitative needs of leprosy patients will no doubt ensure that the needs of the leprosy handicapped will not be overlooked in any proposed program for the handicapped.—S. G. Browne

U.S.A. *"Alone No Longer" out of print.* The STAR is no longer able to supply copies of Stanley Stein's autobiography, *Alone No Longer*. The supply has been exhausted and no additional copies are available as the book is out of print. The book, containing an accurate report on Carville during the many years Stein was a patient, may in the future be reprinted in paperback. If this is accomplished, the STAR will advise its subscribers.—(*Adapted from The STAR* 31 [1972] 14)

American Leprosy Missions, New York. On April 28, 1972, John P. Sams, missions administrator for the United Missionary Office in the Philippines, was appointed administrative vice-president of American Leprosy Missions.

Mr. Sams, a missionary in Thailand for 13 years and for four years in the Philippines, takes over the post on July 1. He will be responsible for office and systems management and will assist the executive vice-president in coordinating other management activities.—(*From ALM*)

Anti-Hansen's disease campaign. The *Medical Tribune* of New York reports in a recent issue that in India stronger measures against Hansen's disease, with eventual eradication as their goal, are being introduced. The journal said that India's Deputy Health Minister, A. K. Kisku, opened the campaign with an appeal to all state governments to join in a registration and treatment drive.—(*Adapted from The STAR* 31 [1972] 15)

Change in regulations regarding entry of persons with leprosy. There has been a change in the regulation to the effect that persons with lepromatous or dimorphous leprosy who have been treated, under satisfactory supervision, for a period of at least six months, and have shown a response to treatment, will no longer be considered ex-

cludable, on medical grounds. Individuals with indeterminate or tuberculoid leprosy had not been excludable on medical grounds previously.

Dr. Paul Fasal receives Service Award. Dr. Fasal, Chief of Leprosy Services at the U.S. Public Health Service Hospital in San Francisco, California, received the Distinguished Service Award, highest accolade of the U.S. Government "in recognition of achievements in the study and treatment of leprosy." The decoration was presented at HEW headquarters in Baltimore in April by Elliot L. Richardson, Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare.

In 1969 Dr. Fasal received the Outstanding Civilian Service Award of the U.S. Army for his work as consultant in leprology at San Francisco's Letterman General (military) Hospital. In May, Dr. Fasal read a paper on Hansen's disease to the International Congress of Dermatologists meeting in Venice, Italy. — (*From The STAR* 33 [1972] 13)

The ALM Leprosy Atelier had its official opening ceremonies on March 7, 1972, with Dr. Oliver Hasselblad, President of ALM, giving the official greeting. This leprosy research laboratory, located at the University of Hawaii's Leahi Hospital, is a cooperative venture between American Leprosy Missions and the University of Hawaii, with Dr. Olaf K. Skinsnes, Professor of Pathology, as the principle investigator. The laboratory, in addition to its research projects, provides teaching and consultative facilities for University of Hawaii medical students, staff, persons interested in leprosy, and for ALM as an extension to the Far East. The Atelier also cooperates with other leprosy-interested laboratories and clinics in Korea, Japan, Okinawa, Taiwan, Hong Kong and elsewhere. Editorial facilities for the *INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF LEPROSY* are also a part of the Atelier, as Dr. Skinsnes is the editor for this journal.

The decor is dominated by the fearsome, frolicking demon killer of Chinese legend known as Chung K'uei, who reigns supreme in the Leprosy Atelier. Dr. Skinsnes feels it is fitting to bring together Chung K'uei, who was deprived of an earned career because of his ugliness, and leprosy—"ugly"

disease—in a laboratory devoted primarily to the study of leprosy. Chung K'uei is also noted for the characteristics he displays similar to those of the modern scientist-physician. Several representations of Chung K'uei and his activities are hung about the laboratory along with displays of medical artifacts related to Oriental medicine and medically related paintings, stone rubbings and Japanese woodcuts.

The Library of the New York Academy of Medicine presented an exhibit during the week of February 15-21, 1971, in commemoration of Leprosy Week. The exhibit, "Leprosy Through the Ages," was comprised mostly of publications of exceptional interest and significance in the history of leprosy.

In addition to the publications, there were three unusual items displayed which attracted much attention: a medieval clapper which all leprosy patients were compelled to carry and to resonate on nearing people, thus avoiding possible contact with and infection of nearby persons; a 14th century miniature of a beggar and an old cripple, presumed to be infected with leprosy judging by the clappers (or rattles) they carried, before a church in Jerusalem; and a view of a cemetery at South Acre, Norfolk, England, for leprosy patients. Formerly, those afflicted with leprosy were isolated together in colonies, and most likely buried in cemeteries set aside exclusively for them.

As early as the 2nd century A.D., medical descriptions of leprosy were recorded and during the Middle Ages issued in Western Europe. Some of these (in Latin) were on display showing the form and illustrations characteristic of those times.

Also of some interest in the exhibit was a chart of the world taken from the *Atlas of Diseases* (1953), American Geographical Society, entitled "Distribution of Leprosy, 1952." This chart showed the areas of the world, mainly Burma, mideast Africa and southeast India, where the disease is prevalent.—(*Adapted from Bull. N.Y. Acad. Med.* 47 [1971] 678-681)

World Leprosy Day. Military chaplains and churches throughout the United States were asked to recognize Sunday, February

13, 1972, as the 19th annual observance of World Leprosy Day. The American Leprosy Missions of New York City was this year's sponsor.

World Leprosy Day was inaugurated in 1954 by Count Raul Follereau in France and is now recognized in more than 105 countries throughout the world. Dr. Oliver W. Hasselblad, President of ALM, feels that this disease should be of concern to all Americans despite the fact that leprosy

is not a public health problem in the U.S.A. He points out that "the deployment of American military personnel in countries with a high incidence of leprosy makes the disease of particular concern." Leprosy is on the increase. Despite effective medicines, increased interest and activities of many agencies, and great progress in physical rehabilitation, leprosy poses a greater threat than ever before in history.—
(Adapted from The STAR 31 [1972] 6)