

## 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.*

**Argentina.** *Argentina begins armadillo studies.* Five HD researchers in Argentina who have begun experimentally infecting armadillos have urged in a recent report that other Hansenologists in their country undertake similar studies. The researchers are L. M. Balina, J. C. Gatti, J. E. Cardama, J. A. Avila and E. Santabaya, all of Buenos Aires.

These researchers announced that inoculation of armadillos has begun in Argentina and that through the collaboration of Dr. Boris Szyfres, veterinarian and director of the Pan American Center in Zoonosis and Dr. Rexford Lord, ecologist, they were provided "with a supply of armadillos native to our country and have initiated the capture of *Chaetophractus villosus*, commonly known as the 'hairy armadillo' which is one of the species of seven-banded armadillos. We are also going to begin inoculating *Dasyprocta septemcinctus pichiy*, commonly known as 'piche.' This armadillo species is abundant in the central desert region."

The STAR was happy to learn that collaborative HD research with armadillos has now spread to South America where animals are plentiful and several varied species are available for experimentation. In the U.S. only one species, the nine-banded armadillo (*Dasyprocta novemcinctus*) is native to our southern and western states.—(Adapted from The STAR [1973] 7)

**Ethiopia.** *ALERT 1972.* The Annual Report for 1972 of the All-Africa Leprosy and Rehabilitation Training Centre reports a year of growing activities and steady progress, in spite of staff shortages. Eighty trainees from outside Ethiopia and 111 Ethiopians were involved in full time courses. The postgraduate course in Clinical Leprology was greatly appreciated by the numerous doctors who attended, most of whom had had little previous experience in

leprosy work. A course for rural area supervisors was organized for 31 students which lasted for four months. A highly successful joint seminar on Cellular Immunity and Resistance to Leishmaniasis, Leprosy and Tuberculosis in the Tropics was organized in association with AHRI. An internationally renowned panel conducted the sessions and gave lectures during this one week seminar which was attended by more than 50 participants.

A gratifying feature of the year's work was the liaison established with Professor General J. Languillon of the Institut de Léprologie Appliquée in Dakar. The General shared in the postgraduate course for doctors and plans to visit Addis Ababa again for the same purpose in 1974.

With a pattern of training and service now being established, the Board of Directors, aided by substantial financial help from a variety of sponsoring agencies and full cooperation from the Imperial Ethiopian Government, can now plan for the tasks ahead.—S. G. Browne

**Nigeria.** *Leprosy Control Program in South Eastern State of Nigeria.* It is reported that there has been marked progress in the program of South Eastern State and the government has been trying to implement several of the recommendations they received on how to improve the Leprosy Control Program. The Christian Council of Nigeria has tried to help improve the situation by donating some vehicles for the Control Program. They have also helped renovate some of the damaged buildings. Presently, the government has been embarking on training of leprosy and rural health staff and it is hoped that in the near future there will be enough trained staff to manage an effective Leprosy Control and Rural Health Program in this state. The Ministry of Health requested that a six month In-Service Training Course be orga-

nized for newly recruited leprosy attendants. It is hoped that the course will fill these young men with enough enthusiasm to make important contributions to leprosy control with deep awareness of the intellectual and moral challenge of leprosy, and with sufficient grasp of the basic principles enabling them to make progress in their knowledge of the disease.—(*Adapted from NEWS OF THE "FIELDS,"* February, 1973)

**Norway.** *Centenary observances begin in Bergen.* Bergen, Norway, the birthplace of Dr. Armauer Hansen who discovered *M. leprae* in 1873, began centenary observances in his honor 28 February.

On that day a memorial ceremony was held in Hakonshallen (King Hakon's Hall) with His Majesty King Olav V in attendance. Professor Morten Harboe, Vice-Chairman, Organizing Committee, Tenth International Leprosy Congress, addressed the assembly on "Armauer Hansen and His Work."

Accompanied by the Bergen Symphony Orchestra, a male choir opened the meeting with a composition by Edvard Grieg and words by a Bergen author, Johan Bogh, a contemporary of Armauer Hansen. (This composition, a cantata, was last presented in a ceremony for Hansen held in the large hall of the Bergen Museum after his death in 1912.)

Following the ceremony, the city of Bergen hosted an official luncheon, and the King then toured The Leprosy Museum and the Armauer Hansen Memorial Room.—(*Adapted from The STAR* [1973] 15)

**Spain.** *Premios de la Academia Española de Dermatología.*

Por iniciativa de la Junta Directiva y con la aprobación de la Junta General la Academia convoca concurso para premiar trabajos de Dermatología y Venereología, con carácter anual en las condiciones que a continuación se estipulan.

*Premio Sainz de Aja:*

Dotado con 15.000 Pesetas con carácter Ibero-Americano.

La familia de nuestro llorado Presidente de Honor D. Enrique Alvarez Sainz de Aja,

ha creado este premio al que podrán optar todos los médicos españoles o de países iberoamericanos que lo deseen.

Los trabajos serán sobre un *Tema libre de Dermatología o Venereología* originales e inéditos, escritos a máquina triple ejemplar, y podrán ser entregados en el local social de la Academia (Calle Sandoval 7 Madrid) hasta el día 1 de Diciembre del año actual.

Serán entregados en un sobre cerrado con un lema. En sobre aparte, con el mismo lema, la dirección y el nombre de autor o autores.

Los trabajos serán estudiados por una comisión de tres académicos, designados por la Junta Directiva, que decidirán el trabajo que ha de ser premiado. Podrán declarar el premio desierto si no hubiera ningún trabajo suficientemente calificado. Igualmente podrán conceder Accésits sin premio en metálico, si hubiera varios trabajos mercedores de ello.

Los premios serán otorgados en la primera Sesión del año 1.974 abriéndose públicamente los sobres que contengan el mismo lema y los nombres de los autores. Los sobres con lemas no premiados serán quemados.

Los trabajos premiados quedarán de propiedad de la Academia y serán publicados en Actas Dermosifiliográficas.

Los autores que deseen que su trabajo tenga también opción al Premio de la Academia Española de Dermatología, deberán hacerlo constar así.

*Premio Academia Española de Dermatología:*

Dotado con 15.000 Pesetas con carácter internacional.

Por acuerdo de la Junta Directiva de la Academia, ratificado en Junta General de 18 de Enero de 1.967, se convoca este premio al que pueden concurrir los médicos de cualquier nacionalidad.

Las bases serán las mismas que en el Premio Sainz de Aja, el *Tema libre* de Dermatología y Venereología y el plazo de presentación de trabajos el día 1 de Diciembre de 1.973 en ejemplar triplicado, bajo sobre con un lema y sobre aparte, con el mismo lema, conteniendo la dirección y nombre del autor o autores.

La decisión se dará a conocer en la Pri-

mera Sesión de 1.974, en la misma forma que se hará en el Premio Sainz de Aja.

**XII Curso Internacional de Leprologia para Medicos.** Organizado por la Soberana Orden Militar de Malta y la Colonia Sanatorio de San Francisco de Borja de Fontilles, con la colaboracion de la Direccion General de Sanidad y eminentes profesores de Algunas Facultades de Medicina. El XII curso tendrá lugar en el Sanatorio de Fontilles desde el 12 al 22 de Septiembre de 1.973 bajo la dirección del Director del Sanatorio, Dr. José Terencio de las Aguas, Alicante.

**XIII Curso Internacional de Leprologia para Misioneros y Auxiliares Sanitarios.** Organizado por la Soberana Orden Militar de Malta y la Colonia Sanatorio de San Francisco de Borja de Fontilles, con la colaboracion de la Direccion General de Sanidad y eminentes Profesores de Algunas Facultades de Medicina. El XIII curso tendrá lugar en el Sanatorio de Fontilles desde el 1 al 27 de Octubre de 1.973 bajo la dirección del Director del Sanatorio Dr. José Terencio de las Aguas, Alicante.

**Taiwan. Annual Report of Taiwan Leprosy Relief Association** (extracts from report of 1972).

"One of the outstanding events of this past year was the phasing out of our inpatient program at Tainan Clinic. Our facilities there could accommodate 50 patients, but due to the successful treatment of long-term patients with Lamprone, the inpatients decreased to a handful. Negotiations with the Provincial Hospital with the objective of transferring the outpatient clinic and integrating it with their outpatient department failed due to opposition by the majority of their medical personnel. However, the Lins succeeded in integrating outpatient skin clinic with the Presbyterian Hsin-lau Clinic, thus freeing the buildings for the care of crippled children. Thus the Lin's have a dual program, caring for handicapped children as well as conducting a twice-weekly clinic for leprosy patients plus home visiting and case-finding program."—(NEWS OF THE "FIELDS," February, 1973)

**Minnesota nurse gets community help in fighting leprosy in the Pescadores.** Community involvement and home visitation are basic ingredients of successful leprosy control in the Pescadores, Taiwan.

The program, directed by Majorie Bly, a Minnesota missionary nurse, was lauded by Oliver W. Hasselblad, M.D., ALM's president, in a report on his recent survey of leprosy work in Asia.

"This project is a unique example," he said, "of using the community as a whole, both as the object as well as the instrument of service to leprosy patients who by careful design remain an integrated part of the community."

Miss Bly came in 1955 to the Pescadores, which has the highest incidence of leprosy in Taiwan. By careful cultivation of community leaders and government health officials she was able to alleviate fear of the disease and to enlist their cooperation. The leprosy clinic is held in the Peng-hu Provincial Hospital with the full cooperation of the medical staff. Patients requiring hospitalization are admitted without question to the hospital wards.—NEWS FROM ALM, Winter, 1973)

**Tanzania. Annual Report of Iambi Leprosy Hospital** (extracts from report of 1972).

"Health Education: This has been conducted among our patients and relatives, both inpatients and outpatients. This programme has been boosted by the presence of Miss Carol Anderson, a Public Health Nurse, resident at the hospital. She is mainly responsible for Maternity and Child Health Services for the Synod's Dispensaries. Health talks, teaching, demonstrations and film shows have been done, proving very useful. Antenatal Clinics and Under-Five Clinics are conducted for both leprosy and non-leprosy patients.

"Statistics: We continued to have a total of 170 beds; 100 beds for the Annexes and 70 for the Wards. Most beds were filled throughout the year.

New cases . . . . .	47
Transfers to Dispensary treatment . . . .	213
Deaths . . . . .	7
Out-patient leprosy patients attendance for intercurrent illness . . .	2352

"As a case-finding project, school surveys were begun by Dr. D. P. Dyauli, medical officer of the Hospital. Twelve schools were surveyed, a total of 2,133 students seen and three new (untreated) cases found. They were referred to dispensaries nearest their homes. These cases represent 0.14% of students attending. Not all children attend school and leprosy may be one reason."—(NEWS OF THE "FIELDS," February, 1973)

**Trinidad.** *Leprosy control in Trinidad and Tobago.* As a result of recent changes Trinidad's national leprosy policy, people who suspect they have the disease are coming more readily and in greater number to outpatient clinics for examination and diagnosis.

In a report to the annual meeting in November of the Trinidad and Tobago Leprosy Relief Association, Dr. Oswald H. Siung, Principal Medical Officer, Ministry of Health, said the new emphasis on outpatient care, rather than hospitalization in the country's national leprosarium at Chacachacare, has resulted in many new leprosy cases being treated early enough to prevent deformities.

Formerly all leprosy cases were sent to Chacachacare. Now those with the disease have a choice of living at home and being treated as outpatients or going to the leprosarium.

Other changes include the establishment of a Leprosy Control Unit to supervise the new treatment, control and rehabilitation program. The unit consists of a leprosy specialist in charge, a doctor, a medical social worker, physical therapy technicians, health visitors, an orthopedic shoemaker and other workers.—(NEWS FROM ALM, Winter, 1973)

**U.S.A.** *American Lung Association* will be the new name of the National Tuberculosis and Respiratory Disease Association.

"Apart from tuberculosis," said the announcement, "other lung diseases have been increasing at an alarming rate. Acute respiratory ailments are the major cause of disability and time lost from work and school. In addition to TB, therefore, our association is waging a broad-based fight

against the ills that interfere with breathing, particularly emphysema and chronic bronchitis. We have also mounted an attack against air pollution and cigarette smoking, the major factors contributing to respiratory disease."

As the American Lung Association, the renamed health agency will retain its widely-known symbol, the double-barred cross, a registered trademark of the Association since 1920. The symbol is featured in the annual Christmas Seal campaign, which provides the major portion of the association's income to finance its year-round program activities. Continued use will also be made of the familiar slogan which has marked its fight against respiratory disease, "It's a matter of life and breath."—(Adapted from NEWS from Nat. TB Resp. Dis. Assoc., Monday, February 12, 1973)

*Armadillo's susceptibility confirmed and experimental inoculations continue.* The anticipated susceptibility of an armadillo to serve Hansen's disease has now been confirmed, Dr. W. F. Kirchheimer, Chief of Carville's Laboratory Research Branch, told The STAR. The armadillo developed symptoms characteristic of lepromatous HD about six and a half months after being experimentally infected and laboratory tests revealed that it was teeming with Hansen's bacilli.

Saying that a number of armadillos have been skin tested, Dr. Kirchheimer told The STAR that armadillos reacted as he expected to the tests; that some gave responses interpreted as signs of susceptibility and others demonstrated reactions thought to indicate resistance.

Following skin testing and experimental inoculation with Hansen's bacilli, in one instance, the final test supports his forecast of an armadillo's susceptibility. Of further interest is the fact that this latest armadillo was inoculated with bacilli taken not from a human host but from an infected armadillo of the same species. (Both were nine-banded armadillos.)

Other armadillos which were skin tested and inoculated at the same time as the infected one are all in good condition. However, Dr. Kirchheimer warned that the



only conclusion he cares to draw at this time is that the predicted susceptible armadillo did develop spreading HD and the nonsusceptible ones have not as yet. He added that more time and more instances are required to validate the skin tests.

Not only in the U.S. but throughout the world scientists will be awaiting further results of these skin tests which may make it possible to distinguish between susceptible and resistant armadillos in a relatively short period of time.—(*Adapted from The STAR* [1973] 7)

*Ceremonies set in recognition of team work.* On 29 November, Drs. Harry Burchfield, scientific director, and Eleanor Storrs, member of staff, at Gulf South Research Institute branch at New Iberia, Louisiana, were presented with a plaque by Dr. Ramson K. Vidrine, state health officer, in the governor's press room in the Capitol. The plaque was given in appreciation of their work in infecting armadillos with *M. leprae*. It will be recalled that the initial successful inoculations were a joint project of Dr. Waldemar H. Kirchheimer of the U.S. Public Health Hospital, Carville, and Dr. Storrs (IJL 39 [1971] 693-702).—(*Adapted from BATON ROUGE MORN-ING ADVOCATE*, November 29, 1972)

*Twentieth World Leprosy Day observance.* The 20th annual observance of World Leprosy Day was held Sunday, 18 February. This day is observed ecumenically in more than 100 countries to call attention to the plight of the world's most neglected people—those suffering from leprosy.

Sponsored in the United States by American Leprosy Missions, the observance is endorsed by heads of state, world church leaders and leading scientists. Patients in many HD hospitals around the world also arrange special programs to celebrate the day.

Despite the spectacular scientific advances of the last few decades, less than

20% of the estimated 10 to 15 million HD cases receive any care. The cases diagnosed each year equal those released from treatment.

One of the main purposes of the annual observance is to offer the opportunity of disseminating true facts about the disease and its victims. (*Adapted from The STAR* [1973] 6)

*Wayne Meyers to join ALM Leprosy Atelier at the University of Hawaii.* Dr. Wayne M. Meyers, director of the leprosy program of *Institut Medical Evangelique* in Kimpese, Zaire, will join the staff of the University of Hawaii School of Medicine next fall, announced Oliver W. Hasselblad, M.D., president of American Leprosy Missions.

In his new position as professor of pathology at the Medical School, he will work with Dr. Olaf Skinsnes at the American Leprosy Missions Leprosy Atelier, a training and research center set up by Dr. Skinsnes two years ago as a part of the department of pathology.

A widely recognized microbiologist and specialist in leprosy pathology, Dr. Meyers has worked in Africa under the auspices of American Leprosy Missions since 1961, first at ALM-supported programs in Burundi and northeast Congo, and for the last nine years at the *Institut Medical Evangelique*.

During his furloughs Dr. Meyers also did leprosy research under the Special Mycobacterial Diseases Branch of the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology in Washington, D.C. In 1969 he was cited by the Institute for his outstanding services.

Dr. Meyers' work at the ALM Leprosy Atelier in Hawaii will also be funded by American Leprosy Missions. In addition to doing basic research on crucial problems of leprosy transmission, immunology, drug resistance, etc., plus his teaching duties in the department of pathology, Dr. Meyers will also act as a consultant to American Leprosy Missions.—(*NEWS FROM ALM*, Winter, 1973)