

THIS CENTENNIAL FESTSKRIFT

This FESTSKRIFT, spelled in the Norwegian manner in recognition of the host country to the Centennial Congress, commemorates the centennial of Hansen's discovery of *Mycobacterium leprae*. It attempts a varied survey of progress made in understanding and controlling leprosy during the past century. By its inclusion of one contribution relating to Father Damien, it also notes that this is the centennial of the year that Father Damien began his epoch-making contribution at Molokai, Hawaii.

In addition to its dedication to Gerhard Henrik Armauer Hansen, Daniel Cornelius Danielsen and Carl Wilhelm Boeck, the FESTSKRIFT presents a photographic gallery of "Contributors of the Century." From a search of the obituary columns of this and other journals, preliminary listings were sent to the Contributing Editors of this JOURNAL. Each was asked to comment generally on these, to assume responsibility for particular attention to additional adequate representation from the geographic area which they represent on behalf of the JOURNAL and, where possible, to supply needed photographs. Their recommendations and suggestions were generally accepted, with editorial modification only if photographs were not available or if inadequate information was available for the presentation of a creditable statement of the candidate's contributions. Since the purpose was to achieve a photographic gallery, rather than a judgemental honors list, a prime requisite for inclusion was the availability of photographs of these eminent colleagues. There are, on our listing of contributors, many individuals who are not included in the gallery because no photographs of them have been found despite wide search in books and journals as well as by correspondence.

A similar process of selection and obtaining material was followed for compiling the photographic gallery of "Senior Distinguished Contributors." Initially the intent was to represent those distinguished colleagues who have, or intend to, retire from active leprosy work within a year of the Centennial Congress or who have achieved the distinguished age of 70 years by, or during, 1973. Criteria relating to retirement proved impossible of definition or application for this purpose, there being some individuals who after early contributive leprosy work retired from it into other activities and others who, past the usual retirement age, are still very actively productive and contributive. These two groups can be regarded as "polar" groups with an interlying spectrum of variations that resembles the spectrum of variation in leprosy manifestations and that proved almost as complex in resolution. Hence the final operative criterion was simply that the recommended candidate have achieved the age of three score and ten. This too, has been difficult to determine for, by way of example, one eminently qualified individual with whom we have been corresponding on other matters as well as on our search for candidates was found just days before final press time to have, himself, achieved the requisite age of wisdom. He was too modest to make note of this and thus suggest that he be qualified for inclusion. If, therefore, we have inadvertently missed distinguished colleagues who should have been included, we trust that they will accept this as tribute to their ongoing activities that have successfully belied their age achievement, and accept our apologies for not having penetrated their disguise. In recognition of this ongoing productivity on the part of these colleagues, their photographic gallery follows this editorial statement, for this comment is deliberately positioned as a marker between the

commemorative section of the *FESTSKRIFT* and the more active records and presentations.

The organizing committee of the Tenth International Leprosy Congress set up eight technical panels to meet before the Congress and prepare statements on varied subjects. Each of these sections had an appointed chairman and each of these chairmen was invited to provide a summary of the century's achievements and progress in their subject area. They all generously complied. These contributions, it is agreed, are not to be regarded as official statements of either the Congress or the respective panels. They are presented in alphabetical order according to subject. Additional sources of pertinent subject information were brought to our attention by various correspondents, and as a result Justice Blom and Doctors Irgens and Larsen kindly responded to our requests with their historically significant and interesting contributions.

Leprosy is uniquely sandwiched into history and culture. In recognition of this observation we had intended to place the scientific reviews of the century between the historical materials and the reprinted (in translation) paper on "Leprosy in Literature and Art" by Grön. Financial considerations together with postal requirements conspired to necessitate separating this *FESTSKRIFT* into two, rather than the originally planned single issue. The article by Grön thus appear at the conclusion of this issue, Number 2. Issue Number 3 of this volume will follow with the scientific reviews of the century. The two issues combined, form the composit *FESTSKRIFT*.

We express hearty appreciation of the assistance of all the contributors and collaborators in the development of this *FESTSKRIFT*. Though no specific contribution in this issue is attributed to Professor Erik Waaler, a special word of appreciation is due him for much assistance in obtaining material that has gone into its composition.—OLAF K. SKINSNES