

## VI. The Committee on the Change of the Words "Leper" and "Leprosy"

The Committee on the change of the words "Leper" and "Leprosy" has agreed upon the following:

### RESOLUTIONS:—

I — It was unanimously agreed to recommend to the Congress:

That the use of the term "leper" in designation of the patient with leprosy be abandoned and the person suffering from the disease be designated "leprosy patient."

II — That the use of any term, in whatever language, which designates a "person suffering from leprosy" and to which unpleasant associations are attached, should be discouraged. However, the use of the name, "leprosy" should be retained as the scientific designation for the disease. Active steps should be taken to explain fully to the general public its real nature.

III — That if the regional popular use of any less specific terms, in substitution for the scientific name "leprosy," enables the general public to understand more fully and clearly the advances that have been made in the understanding, diagnosis and treatment of the disease, such terms may be used, as suitable opportunity offers; but it would be unwise to adopt such terms to conceal the true nature of the disease.

IV — That the Congress take appropriate action in order to have the conclusions communicated to the scientific journals and the press.

*Adopted by the Fifth International Congress of Leprosy, Havana, Cuba, April 1948.*

The Committee which dealt with this subject was composed as follows:

Mr. P. Burgess, Chairman, New York; Dr. E. R. Kellersberger, Secretary, New York; and Drs. J. Alexio, Brazil; G. Clavero del Campo, Spain; N. D. Fraser, South China; H. Gourgerot, France; H. T. Karsner, Cleveland, Ohio; F. I. de Mello, Portugal; R. Melsom, Norway; L. Rendon, Ecuador; M. H. Soule, Ann Arbor, Michigan; J. Stancioli, Brazil; V. Martinez Dominguez, Spain; and Sr. Catherine Sullivan, R.N.

*This Resolution was reaffirmed at the Sixth International Congress of Leprosy, Madrid, Spain, October 1953.*