

## This JOURNAL: The Past Five Years

The INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF LEPROSY, house organ of the International Leprosy Association, began publication with the January-March issue of 1933. At that time it was largely under the aegis of the Leonard Wood Memorial, a position maintained till the JOURNAL was independently incorporated. Initially its budget was U.S. \$5,000 per year, but by the time of its incorporation the budget had risen to about \$34,000, and by the end of the 1973 publication year the total cost of its 41 years of publication approximated \$600,000. That, of course, is not the actual total cost for initially the LWM, and later also others, have housed its production facilities without charge and the JOURNAL, under these conditions, has enjoyed many ancillary benefits for which there is no way to estimate costs.

As the result of these efforts the JOURNAL series today stands as perhaps the most extensive single broad compilation of leprosy lore, containing as it does in addition to published original manuscripts, a broad sampling and reflection of other leprosy publications through its regular section on abstracts from current literature. Its occasional reprinted articles have made available historically and scientifically significant publications which otherwise would be difficult of access. The section on "News and Notes" is often historically rewarding and of current interest, though THE STAR published by the patients at Carville should be consulted by those interested in this area. It should also

be noted, out of genuine respect, that other publications, begun at about the same time as this one, notably LEPROSY REVIEW, LA LEPRO (Japan), LEPROSY IN INDIA, LEPROLOGIA (Argentina), and REVISTA BRAS. LEPROL., also present great concentrated scientific and historical repositories of information on this disease.

Dr. H. Windsor Wade carried the editorship of this JOURNAL from his base in the Philippines for 30 of these years, and it is self-evident that his labors were monumental. During much of this period world communication was by ship and even after air-mail was introduced there were difficulties exemplified by the occasion when an airplane crash resulted in loss of the material for a whole issue. In the light of some of the publication experiences of the past five years, we read with sympathy and wry amusement Dr. Wade's regular reports to International Leprosy Congresses of his period on why it had not been possible to get the JOURNAL into an "on time" schedule.

Dr. Esmond R. Long presided as editor during a golden period of this JOURNAL's history. His residence was close to both the publication office in Washington, D.C. and the printers in Baltimore. The printers had had a long association with the JOURNAL and had staff experienced in its production, and the publication office was in a strong position to play its role. It had in its possession the regularly arriving exchange journals from which many abstracts were culled and

had contact with large library facilities for others. Copying facilities were immediately at hand and Miss Delta Derrom, an incredibly fast typist, had a background of many years experience with JOURNAL style and publication procedures. Facilities, expertise in publication and printing were but a short telephone call away from the experienced editorial wisdom of Dr. Long and subject to repeated personal visits by him. Add to this his meticulous and persistent hard work and the explanation of on-time schedule achievement becomes evident.

The past five years have coincided with difficulties in scientific funding reflected in part in JOURNAL financing both directly and indirectly. During the same period there have been a succession of disruptive changes in organization and facilities. Virtually all have been unforeseeable and each has exerted its influence either on some aspect of the JOURNAL'S make-up or on its total production process. As a result the "on-time" schedule has not been maintained despite three concentrated editorial drives for its achievement, including two occasions when the manuscript file was totally emptied, all available manuscripts having been edited and readied for publication.

When the editorial office was established in Hawaii some difficulties in communication were anticipated, but given the functioning production arrangements these were not regarded as of major import. At least one other major medical publication is successfully edited in Hawaii and printed on the U.S. mainland. Initially the editorial office, with twelve hours of secretarial time provided by the JOURNAL per week, had primary responsibility for handling manuscripts and editorial matters. Abstracts and news items continued to be gathered by the publication office as in the past and that office also continued its responsibility for the yearly production of the requisite author and subject indices. Dr. Long, as *Editor emeritus*, continued editorial supervision of the current literature abstracts and the news and notes. Miss Delta Derrom, devoting about half of her time to the JOURNAL, continued her activities in these areas, in working with the printers on JOURNAL make-up and production and the necessary billings and record keeping.

Inevitably there were initial editorial delays resulting from the process of becoming

familiarized with details of JOURNAL style and procedure, while at the same time developing new leprosy research facilities and staff at the newly developing medical school at the University of Hawaii. These facilities had to be developed from scratch. There were some difficulties due to vagaries of manuscript flow to the editorial office from time to time, but for the most part there was an adequate submission to commandeer the capacity of the JOURNAL pages. Nevertheless there were dichotomies between editorial and publication office schedules as exemplified by one memorable issue, when, while galley proofreading was being completed, page proofs arrived. The galleys being then useless, immediate attention was given to reading proof on the page proofs but by the end of that week the printed JOURNAL was received in the editorial office, not having had the benefit of any editorial proofreading beyond that of the final manuscript submission. Other instances of "lost" manuscript bundles were recovered from miss-filing at the printers after editorial proof of posting was presented. Quite by coincidental chance another memorable issue resulted when all but two of the contributing authors to whom manuscripts were returned for proofing, proved to be on world tours or semiworld tours at the same time and up to four months elapsed before the last manuscript was returned.

It became evident that instability was developing within the printing concern and suddenly the company was reorganized under new management; a management which expressed continued interest in the JOURNAL and assured it of a production efficiency which never developed. In the summer of 1972 the editor, in consultation with the publication office, located competent printing concerns in Hawaii and there was discussion of moving the JOURNAL production to Hawaii. The president of the original printing house, who had retained a relationship with the new concern and who had in past years rendered signal service to the JOURNAL, undertook personal responsibility for watching over the JOURNAL, and he made valiant efforts, at a great personal sacrifice, to do so. Thus, in the autumn of 1972 a *modus vivendi* was agreed on by which the JOURNAL would be on time by the Tenth International Leprosy Congress and the Festschrift would be available in sample form by the Congress.

In fact, neither the *Festschrift* nor its preceding issue Number 1 of Volume 41 was available because the printing company was liquidated and other printing arrangements had to be made. As a result, the *Festschrift* was eight and a half months in printing after completion of the final manuscripts, and it did not come off the press till mid-March of 1974.

Among its many contributions to leprosy work over the past decades, the Leonard Wood Memorial's undergirding of this JOURNAL must be regarded as among the most significant. The changing economic milieu of the past decade as well as some internal changes in direction made continuing support of the JOURNAL unfeasible and such support has, at least temporarily, ceased. During the past five years the accompanying organizational changes have inevitably reflected themselves in JOURNAL production. The two most significant changes were the resignations of Miss Delta Derrom and that of Dr. Binford from his position as medical director.

Miss Derrom's departure came without much forewarning and suddenly the need for accumulating abstracts for the "Current Literature" section and news items for "News and Notes" devolved on the editorial office. Secretarial time provided by the JOURNAL had increased to 30 hours per week but this hardly compensated for the loss of the many hours that Miss Derrom had been devoting to the IJL. It took time to redirect the exchange journals to the editorial office and to build the routine and facilities for surveying the world literature and to channel news to this office. Dr. George Fite, long and widely known in leprosy circles for his contributions, utilized his base in the editorial offices of the JOURNAL OF THE AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION to help over the transition period and has continued some contributions to the present. His often inimitably worded abstracts and comments are recognized by those who know him and are identified by his signature on each contribution of the abstracts. At the present CURRENT CONTENTS (Life Sciences) with weekly index and MEDLINE monthly hook-up by satellite to the computers of the National Library of Medicine, in addition to exchange journals, provide a wide coverage. This is vital since communications regarding leprosy are appearing in a continually increasing number

of medical publications. Having thus obtained the weekly and monthly references this office is still faced with the necessity of obtaining the original publications from which to draw summaries and abstracts.

Following the resignation of Dr. Binford the facilities of the Leonard Wood Memorial offices and staff were no longer available to the IJL and Dr. Binford's office was taxed to maintain the financial structure and accounts of the publication. As a result, while the final issue of 1972 was in page proof, the editorial office was suddenly faced with the responsibility of producing author and subject index for Volume 40. This necessitated quickly finding and training temporary part-time secretarial assistance for that purpose again with resultant delay in final printing. The same problem exists at the present writing for Volume 41 though it has been possible to make some anticipatory preparations.

With the loss of the facilities of the offices of the Leonard Wood Foundation the IJL also lost access to the only complete bound set of its own publication previously accessible, which was retained by the Leonard Wood Memorial offices. We are now dependent on the editor's personal set, accumulated over the past years and inevitably incomplete especially with respect to the first 15 years of publication. We face the necessity of attempting to reconstitute a complete set for the future editorial and publication needs of the JOURNAL.

With the present issue, the publication office of the IJL is joined to the editorial office, without any increase as yet in manpower time. An additional function of obtaining reprint orders from authors, compiling these and mailing addresses for the printers devolves on this office and we will also have to prepare associated statements for the billing of reprint costs from the financial office.

Also with this issue, the printing of the JOURNAL is moved to Hawaii. Increasingly, for reasons of cost and facility, journals, magazines and newspapers are converting to electronic typesetting and offset printing. The "hot type" printing process by which this JOURNAL has been produced in the past is being phased out rapidly by most printing houses and, indeed, such facilities capable of printing this JOURNAL no longer exist in Hawaii. The present printers have already

been printing another medical journal for a considerable number of years and also have broad experience in the production of other scientific publications. We thus regain at least a portion of the contiguity of facilities which, as noted above, existed once before in the history of this publication. However, as matters now stand the full responsibility of both editorial and publication work falls on a half-time secretarial position and the editor, who finds that it has been taking a minimum of 800 hours of editorial effort for each year; that is for each volume, in addition to the secretarial time. Fortunately, the present assistant to the editor is now well-experienced, highly competent and very conscientious.

In addition to the routine production of the JOURNAL the past five years have produced some unusual efforts. We have quite regularly published the abstracts of the meetings of the U.S.-Japan Cooperative Medical Science Program, Leprosy Panel Conferences. A monumental effort largely credited to the efforts of Dr. Long, was the publication of *Leprosy Today*, the proceedings of the International Leprosy Colloquium held at Borstel, as a supplement to issue Number 2 of Volume 39. A historical review of the past century of leprosy work was presented as a *Festskrift* in issues Numbers 2 and 3 of 1973. Initially, as approved, this was intended as a single issue but financial and posting conditions necessitated a decision to issue it in two portions at the time that it was already in press. The transactions of the International Leprosy Congresses of 1963 and 1968 were each published as supplements to issues Number 4 of each of those years. A similar procedure was contemplated and hoped for with respect to the proceedings of the 1973 congress. Again, we were commissioned to publish these proceedings but no special financial arrangements were made to cover the costs. This congress was much larger than the preceding congresses. Thus, the abstracts for the 1963 congress totaled 193 covering 85 pages while that of 1968 presented 236 abstracts requiring 97 pages. The 1973 congress pro-

duced 378 abstracts requiring 229 pages which together with ancillary material from the congress provided the equivalent of two authorized issues of the JOURNAL. The transactions of this congress therefore consumes the whole issue Number 4 for 1973, Volume 41. As a result there is inevitable delay in the publication of some submitted manuscripts.

A final accomplishment warrants notice. In 1973 we completed the compilation of a cumulative author and subject index for the first 40 volumes of this JOURNAL. This was first suggested by the publication office and was initiated prior to the appearance of some of the vicissitudes noted above. Some work on it was initially necessary in order to estimate its cost of production and by the time secretarial aid was trained to this production it seemed a waste not to complete the compilation even though it was recognized that finding support for its final printing might be difficult. The manuscript is now complete and it is estimated that final printing will require about 500 pages, the equivalent of a whole volume of the IJL. The costs of printing will be considerably less than that of a full volume since it is already in manuscript form and estimates for this have been obtained. In the meanwhile, the card index on which the manuscript is based, is of inestimable value to the editorial office and the laboratory at which this office is based. On this basis alone the production costs to date seem justified, particularly since they did not impinge on the regular financing of this JOURNAL.

The above report is not offered as an apology, though some may regard it as such, but is recorded, as editorials of past editors have done, as a record of a portion of the history of this JOURNAL. It seems appropriate to venture such a summary at this time since we have not done so at any time during the past five years. We wonder, with some amusement, what we may be finding ourselves writing five years from now, if indeed the JOURNAL can survive the rapidly rising costs of publication that long.

—OLAF K. SKINSNES