

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. *The Sociedad Argentina de Leprologia will hold a special meeting celebrating its 20th anniversary on 7 September 1974, in Buenos Aires. Enrollment is free. The meeting will follow immediately after the Third World Congress of the International Society of Tropical Dermatology, 1-5 September 1974. Those interested in participating please contact The Secretary, Dr. Juan C. Gatti, Avenida de Mayo 354, Ramos Mejia, Buenos Aires, Argentina. —J. E. Cardama*

Belgium. *ELEP Medical Commission holds meeting in Brussels and announces the death on 2 December 1973 of Dr. L. P. Aujoulat, ex-Minister, and former chairman of the Commission. Dr. Aujoulat was considered as one of the best known and loved French doctors in the French-African territories. His extensive knowledge of public health problems in the tropics was in recent years freely placed at the disposal of those involved in leprosy work.*

Also at the meeting held 14 December 1973, the Commission reviewed and assessed several applications for research grants and an evaluation of the feasibility of worldwide leprosy programs financed by member organizations of ELEP was offered and discussed. —S. G. Browne

Brazil. *National Committee for Leprosy Control (ONCLA) formed.* The recent formation of ONCLA, composed of representatives of national, civic, government and religious agencies, has as one of its main purposes, the education of the public about leprosy and the rehabilitation needs of its victims. Dr. Nilson Carvalho, director of the National Leprosy Service, says there are 123,883 registered patients in Brazil under treatment and probably an equal number not known. It is hoped that this new committee will help improve substantially the lack of rehabilitation facilities in the country and that it will stimulate community participation in leprosy control and rehabilitation. Integration of leprosy control into the public

health services is another goal of ONCLA and a committee has been appointed to explore the possibilities of revising discriminatory leprosy legislation.—(*Adapted from The STAR 32 [1973] 10*)

Denmark. *Donald A. Miller attends "Silver Wedding" of Danish Committee for Help for The Leprosy Mission.* In December 1972, Mr. Donald A. Miller, Vice-President, The Leprosy Missions, attended the 25th anniversary of the beginning of the Danish Committee which was initiated to secure the active support of the Danish people for the Mission. Mr. Miller, who had initially taken part in the closer union of these two missions, was invited to attend the anniversary by Dr. Fuglsang-Damgaard, retired Bishop of Copenhagen, who led the newly formed committee in its beginning stages. Miss Emilie Lillelund, the then dynamic superintendent of the Mission's Leprosy Home and Hospital at Vadathorasalur, India, was also in attendance at the anniversary celebration, as it was partly through her efforts that this enterprise evolved. A significant part of the "Silver Wedding" events was the reception given by Bishop and Mrs. Fuglsang-Damgaard which was attended by many representatives connected with the Danish Committee and its charter members.—(*Adapted from In Action, Second quarter [1973] 32-33*)

England. *Drs. B. David Molesworth and Harold Wheate receive the Order of the British Empire.* Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth has admitted two distinguished leprosy workers as Officers of the Order of the British Empire (O.B.E.). Dr. Molesworth is the director of LEPROA's Control Scheme in Malawi and Dr. Wheate, formerly leprosy adviser to the Tanzanian government, is now on the staff of ALERT in Addis Ababa. —S. G. Browne

Leprosy Mission celebrates 100th birthday. From London comes news that in 1974 The Leprosy Mission will celebrate its 100th anniversary with a series of meetings, a new

movie of The Leprosy Mission's work in Asia, a special historical brochure, publication of the official history of the organization and three new field projects.

In April, public meetings will be held in the royal Dublin Society Hall and the Monkstown Parish Church to commemorate the first efforts of Wellesley Bailey, Irish Protestant missionary, to raise money for leprosy victims in India. In London, a thanksgiving service will be held in St. Paul's Cathedral in May, and additionally a two day international conference on leprosy will be held.

The new field projects to begin in this centennial year will be initiated in the following countries: Bhutan, Thailand, Indonesia, West Iran, and Northeast Zaire.—(*Adapted from News From ALM, Fall 1973*)

Report of the International Committee of Dermatology. The International Committee of Dermatology met on 16-17 July 1973 in London, England, under the presidency of Professor R. L. Baer, to discuss the form of future international congresses of dermatology and to begin the preparations for the XVth International Congress of Dermatology, scheduled to meet on 16-22 October 1977 in Mexico City.

The following activities were decided upon for the XVth Congress in Mexico City: main themes (new developments of importance in areas of clinical dermatology and dermatologic aspects of basic science), presentations will last up to 30-40 minutes with no discussion; symposia (about 15 symposia each with one particular topic are planned); workshops (to deal with circumscribed topics in the basic or clinical sciences in dermatology); educational courses; informal tea discussion groups; free communications; and patient demonstrations (type of demonstration, i.e., by slide presentation, has not yet been determined).

There was extensive discussion regarding publication of the proceedings from the congress. The International Committee concluded that in place of a volume on transactions, a book of abstracts should be published prior to the congress. Transactions of international congresses have only limited value nowadays and do not justify the high cost of publication.

For further information contact Dr. Felix Sagher, Secretary General-Treasurer, De-

partment of Dermatology, Hadassah University Hospital, P.O. Box 499, Jerusalem 91000, Israel.

TROPICAL DOCTOR, a journal of modern medical practice, is concerned with the health problems of tropical countries. It was first published in 1971 and is published quarterly by the Royal Society of Medicine. The journal aims to cover the whole range of medicine, including articles on leprosy, in a strictly practical and down-to-earth manner. Contributions will come from authors all over the world, and while its aims are primarily to provide general postgraduate instruction for doctors working in isolated areas, it will also be of use for those working in hospitals and health centers and the final year medical student. Orders may be sent to TROPICAL DOCTOR, International Relations Office, The Royal Society of Medicine, Chandos House, 2 Queen Anne Street, London W1M 0BR, England.—S. G. Browne

Ethiopia. Report of ALERT Post-Graduate Doctors Course, held from 1-27 October 1973 in Addis Ababa. The course was attended by 19 participants which included 17 doctors, one physiotherapist and one nurse.

The course included 1) lectures, usually profusely illustrated with slides or other visual aids, or patient demonstrations; 2) extensive outpatient observation and examination, both clinical and surgical in outpatient clinics, in physiotherapy and in the orthopedic appliance, laboratory and other departments; 3) ward rounds; and 4) seminars. The course was taught by resident staff and visiting lecturers: Professor Michael Lechat, University of Louvain, Belgium; Dr. Van C. Joffrion, Ophthalmologist, Haile Selassie I Foundation; Dr. Larry Schwaab, Ophthalmologist, Haile Selassie I Foundation; and Dr. Tore Godal, WHO Consultant in Leprosy (formerly AHRI director).

Report of course given by ALERT on Applications of the Principles of Management to Medical Care Programs, from 29 October-1 November 1973, in Addis Ababa. The course, which ran for four days, was attended by ten participants. The participants agreed in the course evaluation that the presentation of principles of management was well-organized and clearly presented. They also gained a systematic overview to management which was largely new to most of

them. The general consensus was that the course be repeated, perhaps annually.

Dr. Tore Godal leaves post at AHRI. Dr. Tore Godal, director of AHRI for three years and a member of Board of Directors of ALERT, leaves in July for Geneva where he will take up new work under the WHO. Dr. Godal, during his stay at AHRI, made significant contributions to the leprosy research work being conducted there and gave valuable service as a member of the Board of Directors of ALERT.—(*Adapted from ALERT "NEWS-IN-A-NUTSHELL," July 1973*)

Seventh Annual General Meeting of ALERT, March 9, 1973. The meeting was called to order and a review of the past year's accomplishments was presented. The members, Board of Directors and the staff of ALERT were thanked for their contributions towards the project. Minutes of the 6th Annual General Meeting held 10 March 1972 were approved and signed. Various matters arising from the minutes were presented and discussion followed. Four new members admitted to ALERT were: Netherlands Leprosy Relief Association; Ass. Nazionale Amici dei Lebbrosi, Italy; Les Amis du Pere Damien, Belgium; and the Dutch Government, International Technical Aid.

The 1972 Annual Report was presented by the executive director and comments were invited by the members. The budget for the fiscal year 1973-1974 was introduced and it was recommended that further attempts should be made to fully integrate the financial support received from the Ministry of Public Health with the income received by ALERT from other sponsors. The budget was accepted without amendment. The date of the next annual meeting was set up as 8 March 1974. Closing remarks were made by the executive director and the meeting was officially adjourned.—(*Adapted from Minutes of the 7th Annual General Meeting of ALERT*)

Germany. SCIENCE SERVICE offers films on leprosy. Produced under the auspices of the World Health Organization SCIENCE SERVICE offers "Leprosy," a color film for the instruction of physicians, students and all medical staff. Duration: 30 minutes. Produced with the cooperation and under the guidance of leading leprologists from Germany, England, France, Austria, the Nether-

lands, Venezuela, Israel and Ethiopia, and shot at Jerusalem, Addis Ababa (ALERT), Bisidimo, Caracas and Geneva.

One hundred years ago the Norwegian Hansen discovered the leprosy bacillus. For 30 years sulfone has been available for successful chemotherapy. Today, its annual costs per patient amount to less than U.S. \$2.00; yet, there are millions of people afflicted with leprosy who are not treated and who are cast out from their community. For decades they waste away, disfigured and finally released by death.

Leprosy may be diagnosed and treated at a very early stage. It has thus become most imperative to spread information about this terrible scourge in the most exacting and impressive manner; for even in Europe there are still 52,000 leprosy patients.

In cooperation with WHO and the international leprosy organization ELP, SCIENCE SERVICE has produced a film about the latest findings in diagnostics, therapy and rehabilitation. The color film is available on short notice in 16 mm film with magnetic sound track or on 1/2" magnetic tape (Philips).

Price (not including postage): 16 mm Eastman-Color Kodak (DM 2000,-); 1/2" magnetic tape (Philips) (DM 500,-); other sizes (35 mm, Super 8) upon request.

SCIENCE SERVICE also has available: "The Treatment of Leprosy," 24 minute color sound film; and "Rehabilitation of Leprosy Patients," 24 minute color sound film. Each film covers a well-rounded topic and provides information on diagnosis and treatment, special emphasis being placed on advances in treatment and rehabilitation.

Price (not including postage): 16 mm Eastman-Color Kodak (DM 1500,-); 1/2" magnetic tape (Philips) (DM 500,-); other sizes (35 mm, Super 8) upon request.

Films about malaria, smallpox and treponematosis are in preparation.

Special prices quoted on request for medical institutions. Please address all correspondence to: SCIENCE SERVICE, Berlin 31, Sachsische Str. 26, Germany. Telephone W-Berlin 861 2059 or telex 01 185 601.

Hong Kong. Dr. David C. Bass, Secretary to the Hong Kong Auxiliary, The Leprosy Mission, returns to England after 12 years of service with the Mission in Hong Kong. Mr. Bass was responsible for public relations,

publicity and education of the general public in matters concerning leprosy and The Leprosy Mission. Recently, he also served as Deputy Administrative Superintendent of the Hay Ling Chau Leprosarium. Mr. and Mrs. Bass will live in England where he has been invited to an appointment with the England and Wales Auxiliary, based at Watford, Hertfordshire.—(*Adapted from In Action*, Second quarter [1973] 39)

India. *Comprehensive rural health project in India includes leprosy.* Dr. Maybelle Arole, who with her husband, Dr. Rajanikant Arole, established the Jamkhed Comprehensive Rural Health Project in Maharashtra State in 1971, said that about 600 cases have been discovered and put under treatment in some 30 general health clinics, and that leprosy has been successfully integrated into a widespread rural community health program in India. Most of the cases are in the beginning stages, comparatively free of deformities, living at home and continuing with their regular work.

In addition to leprosy and tuberculosis control, the rural health program includes family welfare planning, child care, antenatal care, immunization, treatment of communicable diseases and health education. Although a small hospital at the Jamkhed headquarters cares for those who need temporary hospitalization, most cases are treated at health subcenters and multipurpose clinics.—(*Adapted from News From ALM*, Spring 1973)

Dr. C. K. Job receives Dr. Sahu's Gold Medal. In recognition of outstanding work in leprosy research, Dr. Job, Professor of Pathology, Christian Medical College and Hospital, Vellore, was awarded in 1971 Dr. Sahu's Gold Medal. For over 17 years Dr. Job has been studying the pathology and pathogenesis of leprosy. He is currently engaged in detailed studies of nerve lesions in leprosy by use of electron microscopy, and in the experimental studies of transmission of leprosy to laboratory animals. Dr. Job has received fellowship awards from the Rockefeller Foundation and the Nuffield Foundation for higher studies in England. Since 1959 he has been associated with the Schiefelin Leprosy Research Sanatorium, Karigiri. He is a member of various medical societies and associations, such as the Indian Association of Leprologists, Indian Association of

Pathologists and the International Leprosy Association. He has published over 30 papers on leprosy in various Indian and foreign medical journals.—(*Adapted from Leprosy in India* 43 [1971] 47)

Dr. M. S. Nilakanta Rao receives national award in India. Dr. Rao, Director, Gandhi Memorial Leprosy Foundation and secretary of the National Leprosy Organization of India, also member of the ILA and various other organizations, was awarded on 26 January 1974 the National Award of "Padma-shree" by the President of India for his services to the cause of leprosy in India.—S. P. Tare

Leprosy rehabilitation and treatment will be provided by a special referral center for Jorhat's Christian Medical Hospital in Assam, India. Funded by American Leprosy Missions, the new facility will provide leprosy treatment as a part of the dermatology department, and a rehabilitation clinic will include leprosy patients with significant deformities. The referral center is designed so that the same facility can also be used for other specialties such as tuberculosis, antenatal and post-natal work, eye problems, dentistry, orthopedics and medical and surgical consultation.

Teaching facilities both for hospital staff and general public will be included as well as ancillary service facilities required for the outpatient program.

One important advantage of the new program is the opportunity to meet total health needs of the entire community, which would include many former leprosy patients now living near the hospital.—(*Adapted from News From ALM*, Spring 1973)

Resolutions regarding leprosy control and rehabilitation. The 12th All India Leprosy Workers Conference held 29 October 1971, endorsed the recommendations made by the Sub-Committee of Experts on "Integration of Leprosy Work with General Medical Work."

Recommendations attached as per Appendix A are as follows:

This conference notes with grave concern the fact that in recent years voluntary institutions doing leprosy control work under the government of India pattern have not received their grants though their work has been continued and reports submitted. It therefore urges the government of India to

release these grants in time, preferably in two equal installments, channeling these grants through the state governments.

This conference strongly recommends that the existing voluntary inpatient leprosy institutions should reorganize their work along the hospital pattern and also take up SET work on a large scale wherever possible. This, however, should not result in throwing out highly crippled leprosy patients in institutions on streets as beggars. Arrangements should be made to provide these with food, shelter and care as long as they live. It is further recommended that a minimum specific grant of RS. 50 per month per patient be provided for the maintenance of such badly crippled leprosy patients.

This conference notes with satisfaction that a good beginning has been made by some voluntary institutions in the field of health education and recommends that a systematic and planned program for intensive health education of various strata of the society be undertaken by all states. It also recommends that steps should be taken to equip the existing medical and nonmedical health staff by training them in health education technics so as to enable them to implement the health education program effectively. Arrangements should also be made to provide them with material and equipment.

It is also recommended that adequate allotment for health education programs be made by the central government.

This conference recommends that research be undertaken with a view of finding out the ways and means of improving the attendance of patients coming for treatment and reducing absenteeism.

This conference resolves that the Hind Kusht Nivaran Sangh urges the government of India to make it obligatory, by suitable legislation, on the part of all industrial establishments to choose at least 5% of its employees from disabled persons, those disabled by leprosy being put in the same category as others disabled for this purpose.

At present the leave rules governing the leprosy patients are varied under the central government, the state governments, and organizations and establishments in the private sector. Similarly, the benefits allowed by the organized private employers as well as the ESIS are also varied. The Rules in operation at present do not meet the requirements

of the leprosy patients in view of the prolonged treatment of the disease as well as the economic strain on the patient and his family.

The society and the government have a special duty to leprosy patients. Hence, the conference recommends to the Hind Kusht Nivaran Sangh that a subcommittee be constituted to study the existing leave rules regarding leprosy patients and formulate suitable recommendations to be adopted by all the employers.—(*Adapted from Leprosy in India* 44 [1972] 72-73)

Indonesia. *Medical congress in Djakarta includes subject of leprosy.* In December 1972, the First National Congress of Dermatology and Venereal Diseases was held in Djakarta, Indonesia. A paper entitled "Immunology of Leprosy" was presented by Dr. Rae Dungan. Dr. Dungan, executive member of The Leprosy Mission's Australian Committee, was also a member of the Leprosy Panel and attended the congress at the invitation of the Indonesian Government, along with Mr. Richard McKeown, secretary for Southeast Asia for The Leprosy Mission. After the opening of the congress many delegates visited the work of The Leprosy Mission at Sitanala where a teaching and training program at the hospital is taking place as well as treatment of inpatients and regular visiting of a number of outpatient clinics. As part of the program an Indonesian doctor was sent to India for nine months to study reconstructive surgery and general leprosy care.—(*Adapted from In Action*, Second quarter, [1973] 27)

Iran. *Leprosy settlement established at Bekhadeh.* With the financial and technical backing of the French *Compagnie Internationale de Developpement*, the desert of Bekhadeh (located near the border of U.S.S.R.) is being developed into a leprosy center. Over 300 former leprosy patients from the sanatoria at Mashhad and Tabriz, many with families, have been settled there. Water has been found, valleys have been irrigated and planted with crops, and this former deserted stretch of desert is becoming an oasis.

A small hospital (a gift of the German Leprosy Relief Association, DAHW) a school, a cinema, workshops, and a stocking knitting factory have been established and

help to ensure employment. This thriving community of Bekhadeh may be regarded as just a small but successful experiment in resettling former leprosy patients who cannot return to their homes or resume former occupations.—S. G. Browne

Italy. *ELEP in Rome.* Participants at the meetings of the Medical Commission and the General Assembly of ELEP held in Rome, April 6-8, were invited to two special events.

The first occurred when His Holiness the Pope gave an audience to representatives of Member Organizations. His Holiness welcomed them in a warm tribute to those engaged in the many facets of the struggle against leprosy in the world, which was then followed by a suitable reply by His Excellency the Ambassador Béat de Fischer, president of ELEP for the year.

The second occasion was a reception the following day by His Most Eminent Highness, the Prince and Grand Master of the Order of Malta, in the Palace of the Knights of Malta, the historic headquarters of the Order in the center of Rome. During the ceremony Dr. S. G. Browne, president of ELEP's Medical Commission, received the Cross of Commander *pro merito melitensi* for his services to the cause of leprosy.—S. G. Browne

Malaysia. *Sungei Buloh Leprosarium to become general hospital.* Dr. M. K. Bhojwani, director of Sungei Buloh Leprosarium in Kuala Lumpur, reports that the leprosarium will close due to the small number of leprosy patients who need institutional treatment. The annual admissions have dwindled from 150 in previous years to 43 in 1971 and 35 in 1972. Today 80% of the country's patients are treated as outpatients in hospitals and health centers. The Sungei Buloh Leprosarium, which will soon be converted into a general hospital, has 2,150 patients, half of whom are over 55 years old, with about 500 below the age of 30.—(Adapted from The STAR 32 [1973] 12)

Norway. *Dr. G. H. Armauer Hansen honored with two postage stamps.* The Norwegian Post Office issued two postage stamps as of 1 March, 1973, to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the discovery of the leprosy bacillus by Hansen. The two stamps are blue and red and both picture Hansen with his microscope, but the vignettes are different.

On the 100-öre stamp the bacillus is shown as described by Hansen, while the 140-öre stamp shows the bacillus examined under a modern microscope. The design and engraving of the stamps are the work of the Norwegian artist Knut Lokke-Sorensen. They were printed by Norges Banks Seddeltrykkeri in Oslo.—(Adapted from The STAR 32 [1973] 10)

Switzerland. *New Director-General for World Health Organization.* Dr. Halfdan T. Mahler of Denmark, has been named as the new Director-General of the World Health Organization. He was elected by the World Health Assembly in May and takes up his appointment in January of 1974.

Dr. Mahler, born in 1923 in Vivild, will be the third Director-General of WHO and succeeds Dr. M. G. Candau of Brazil, who retires after 20 years' service.—(From International Planned Parenthood News, July 1973)

Tanzania. *Dr. Harold W. Wheate leaves Tanzania and joins staff of ALERT in Addis Ababa.* Dr. Wheate who was appointed as leprosy specialist for Tanzania in 1956 held the doctrine that the earliest possible treatment must be made available to the largest number of patients as the basis for leprosy control and he pressed for the training in leprosy of all cadres of health staff as a means to this end. Due to his enthusiastic communications in this area to others in the health service and to Dr. Norris, the medical officer at the newly built Iambi Hospital, the first Provincial Leprosy Committee with representatives from the government, administrative and medical, local authorities and voluntary agencies, was formed to coordinate leprosy control measures. Dr. Wheate, who retired in June of 1972 from his position in Tanzania, will always be remembered for his tremendous efforts in accomplishing better treatment and care for leprosy patients in this country, and for his vigorous assistance in the development of the East African Leprosy Association.—(Adapted from The East African Leprosy Bulletin 2 [1972] 5 and 18-19)

Leprosy patients are handicapped by too long hospitalization, reports D. P. Dyauli, Medical Director, Iambi Leprosy Hospital. Dr. Dyauli indicates that leprosy patients tend to become socially dislocated when they

remain too long in an institution. However, he does point out that short-term patients who come for therapy and treatment return to their homes without difficulty. In his annual report on Iambi, Dr. Dyauli states that during the last year there were more and more patients who came for treatment voluntarily and during the early stages of the disease. The Iambi center, established in 1958 by American Leprosy Missions and the Lutheran Church in America, is responsible for a central hospital of 170 beds plus 47 leprosy clinics in the Singida Region with a total of 2,381 patients.—(*Adapted from News From ALM, Spring 1973*)

U.S.A. *American Leprosy Missions gives research funds from the Victor Heiser Foundation.* A large grant from the foundation (set up by the late Dr. Heiser, author of *An American Doctor's Odyssey*, an outstanding leader in the international health field, and the first president of the ILA) will be used to aid important research activities in Venezuela, at the USPHS Hospital in Carville, La., and at the University of Hawaii. The funds were given to ALM to be used over a three year period and annual reports from the funded projects will be submitted to the foundation.

The following programs were selected for grants: Carville, completion of armadillo research laboratory and armadillo breeding studies, and pressure sensitivity studies in anesthetic limbs. Venezuela, at the International Center for Training and Research in Leprosy and Related Diseases, studies to determine why patterns of leprosy vary from country to country. ALM Leprosy Atelier, University of Hawaii, studies in natural and acquired mechanisms of cellular immunity in leprosy.—(*Adapted from News From ALM, Fall 1973*)

American Leprosy Missions publishes revised edition of study booklet entitled LEPROSY, A PRESENT DAY UNDERSTANDING. Designed originally to acquaint travelers to foreign countries with the basic facts about leprosy, this booklet is now being used worldwide as an educational tool. Since its publication in 1966 it has been translated into many languages and dialects. The revised edition presents a comprehensive survey of the extent of the disease, its cause, sign and symptoms, treatment and prevention, and recent developments in drug ther-

apy and in basic research. The 32-page booklet also includes updated lists of voluntary organizations concerned with leprosy, journals and periodicals, and international leprosy training centers.—(*Adapted from News From ALM, Fall 1973*)

Armadillo research at Gulf South Research Institute in New Iberia, Louisiana. Dr. Eleanor E. Storrs submitted a progress report on the latest developments of the armadillos infected with the leprosy bacillus. A "major first"—central nervous system involvement has been found in armadillo No. 18 approximately two years after its inoculation with leprosy. Reporting on this latest development are Drs. S. L. Issar, Storrs and Binford. The autopsy performed on No. 18 revealed historic findings in that "acid-fast bacilli along with histologic changes suggestive of leprosy were found in the cerebrum, cerebellum and spinal cord."

Also in the progress report GSRI staff members express a preference for intravenous inoculations of armadillos with *M. leprae* rather than the intradermal route which has been used in the majority of inoculations to date.

Another development of significant implication for future research, is the announcement by staff members of the development of an apparent case of leprosy in an armadillo inoculated with bacilli from a patient unresponsive to DDS therapy. However, the researchers still do not have conclusive proof that this armadillo has leprosy and they have not determined as yet that it is infected with sulfone-resistant bacilli. Their report indicates that if the organisms are DDS-resistant, it "will be a valuable strain for studies on chemotherapy."

Preliminary work has begun on the immunology of the armadillo and the animals are now being tested with lepromin to determine their susceptibility (or lack of it) to leprosy. Other research studies by the GSRI team include the possibility of low thyroid activity in the animals; tissue cultures established from an armadillo and three of her four identical young; reproduction in the armadillo; and comparative studies of plasma levels in armadillos following the administration of sulfones (MADDS and DADDS).—(*Adapted from The STAR 32 [1973] 3 and 16*)

Damien-Dutton Society Board of Governors votes in new board. A Permanent Board of Directors was elected and is to be headed by Most Rev. George W. Ahr, S.T.D., Trenton, Honorary Chairman, and Howard E. Crouch, founder and former director, as president and presiding officer. Sister Mary Augustine, named director of the Society, will continue the ongoing development projects with offices in New Jersey and Washington, D.C. Also appointed was Mrs. Rose Chibbaro, C.P.A., Auditor.

On the Permanent Board are: Fr. Richard A. Behl, Trenton, Prop. of the Faith Director; Fr. John Furniss, Jesuit Seminary and Mission Bureau, NYC; Vincent Weiss, Managing Editor, THE MONITOR; Judge Aldona Appleton, Perth Amboy; Theodore VanderClute, President, Castlereagh Press, Freeport, N.Y.; and Miss Mary Pringle, Secty-Treasurer.

Advisory Board members are: *New York City:* Msgr. John Nolan, Cath. Near East Welfare; Fr. Jos. Walter, Cath. Medical Mission Bd.; Dr. Oliver Hasselblad, American Leprosy Missions. *New Jersey:* Edward J. Dolan, Legal Counsel; and Congressman Edward J. Patten. *Washington, D.C.:* Dr. Chapman H. Binford, USAFIP; and Donald Wilson, Goodwill Industries.—(Adapted From Damien-Dutton Call, Nov.-Dec. 1973)

Dr. Paul Fasal reports sensory substitution. An experiment in sensory substitution which, if successful, may have future significance for leprosy patients who have lost their sense of touch is being conducted at the U.S. Public Health Service Hospital in San Francisco. Dr. Paul Bach-y-Rita, Associate Director, Smith-Kettlewell Institute of Visual Sciences, and Dr. John J. Niebauer, Chief, Department of Hand Surgery at University of the Pacific Medical Center, San Francisco, proposed the project to Dr. Fasal. Dr. Bach-y-Rita and Dr. Carter C. Collins of his staff have developed a substitute sight system for blind persons and propose to vary this system and apply it to leprosy patients who have lost sensation in their fingers. It consists of a specially constructed glove containing artificial sensors. Tactile information from the glove fingers is transmitted electrically to a still-sensitive skin area. The patient learns to interpret these impulses in terms of touch, pressure and temperature sensations. Although preliminary findings are favorable, Dr. Fasal cautions that they

are only preliminary findings and hopes to present a report on these findings by August 1973.

The theory and practice of Dr. Bach-y-Rita's field are found in his recent book *Brain Mechanisms in Sensory Substitution*, published by the Academic Press, New York and London.—(Adapted from The STAR 32 [1973] 5)

Dr. Norisuke Sasaki visits with American leprologists in America. Dr. Norisuke Sasaki of the National Institute for Leprosy Research in Tokyo visited Carville 8-13 February, 1973. Dr. Sasaki, a prominent researcher in the field of immunosuppressive methods, visited Dr. Shepard in Atlanta, Ga., Dr. Chapman Binford in Bethesda, Md., Dr. John Hanks at Baltimore, Md., Dr. Louis Levy in San Francisco and Dr. Olaf K. Skinsnes at the Leprosy Atelier in Hawaii.

It is hoped that eventually Japan could acquire sufficient numbers of armadillos to begin their own research program. With 10,000 registered patients in Japan at present, drugs like B663 and rifampin are now being used in increasing proportions since many patients have developed sulfone resistance to the disease. Dr. Sasaki is pleased with the results of rifampin in Japan thus far, and notes that there is a rapid reduction of bacilli in patients with its use.—(Adapted from The STAR 32 [1973] 11)

Drs. Harry Arnold and Paul Fasal publish the second edition of LEPROSY, DIAGNOSIS AND MANAGEMENT. To help the general physician who may be faced with an occasional case of leprosy is the principal aim of the second edition of this book by Dr. Harry L. Arnold, Jr., Clinical Professor of Dermatology, University of Hawaii School of Medicine, and Dr. Paul Fasal, Chief, Leprosy Service, U.S.P.H.S. Hospital, San Francisco. This 93 page book published by Charles C. Thomas, Springfield, Illinois, is a monograph in the series, American Lectures in Dermatology, edited by John M. Knox, M.D., of Baylor University.

Topics include recent findings in the immunology of leprosy (including the lymphocyte transfer factor), etiology, epidemiology, natural evolution, diagnosis, clinical patterns and histopathology. The text has many color photographic illustrations of lesions of leprosy and of diseases that are often confused with leprosy.—(Adapted from ALM, May 29, 1973)

Father Damien plaque unveiled at base of statue in Washington, D.C. At the U.S. Capitol at Washington, D.C., a plaque, authored by Dr. Gavan Daws, was attached to the base of Father Damien's statue describing the significance of Damien and the reason why Hawaii chose him along with King Kamehameha to represent the State in the Capitol corridors. The use of the word "leper" was avoided due to a conscious policy of the committee which worked out the creation of the plaque. When Congressman Spark Matsunaga unveiled the plaque praise for the author's inscription of artistry and brevity was voiced by many present and none even noticed the omission of the offending word. The opening wording begins: "Greater love has no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends." John 15:13.—(*Adapted from Honolulu Star Bulletin, Editorial, May 10, 1973*)

Fourteenth annual leprosy seminar held at USPHS Hospital, Carville, Louisiana. The 14th annual seminar sponsored by ALM and the U.S. Public Health Service was held at Carville on 26 April to 2 May, 1973. The seven day seminar was limited to 40 participants. Selected by ALM, they included full-time leprosy workers, both expatriate and national, Protestant and Catholic, as well as those engaged in general medical work in areas of the world where leprosy is a problem.

"The seminar is especially valuable," Dr. Hasselblad said, "for those going overseas for the first time to do medical work. It provides a general orientation in the problems of leprosy and creates an awareness of the disease as one of the great unmet health needs of our time."

Among the participants were doctors, surgeons, nurses, occupational therapists, physical therapists, public health workers, administrators, sociologists, health education specialists, epidemiologists and medical students.

The newest methods of leprosy management and control were studied and they learned ways of using general and public health facilities to help meet the needs of leprosy patients.

Countries where this year's participants are working or plan to work are India, Thailand, Korea, Republic of Congo, Zaire, Niger, Nigeria, Ethiopia, Tanzania, Liberia,

Zambia, Brazil, Haiti and the U.S. (Hawaii). Visiting seminar leaders included Dr. P. Fasal, Miss Jane Neville from ALERT in Addis Ababa, Dr. Y. K. Song of Korea, Dr. Maybelle Arole from the Jamkhed Comprehensive Rural Health Project in India, Dr. Herbert Gass and Dr. Oliver W. Hasselblad.

Three new areas of leprosy management were studied this year: health education, the role of paramedical workers in leprosy control, and leprosy in a comprehensive community health program. Other topics included dermatology, neurology, epidemiology, eye involvement, histopathology, differential diagnosis, surgical reconstruction, rehabilitation, ambulatory treatment, and chemotherapy.—(*Adapted from ALM, 1973*)

Hansen centennial celebrations. During 1973 many government and voluntary agencies celebrated the centennial of Hansen's discovery of the leprosy bacillus. Oliver W. Hasselblad, M.D., president of the American Leprosy Missions, announced that a special contribution was made to help send 21 selected leprosy workers to the Bergen Congress in Norway from six countries in Asia, Africa and South America.

On 28 February the Norwegian government held special ceremonies in Bergen and a commemorative stamp was issued and a bust of the scientist was unveiled.

Commemorative stamps are also being issued by the governments of India, Argentina, France, Burundi, Cameroun, Chad, The Ivory Coast, Niger and Laos. The Order of Malta will also issue a special commemorative stamp.

In Sevagram, India, fall celebrations will include a five day seminar of scientific and technical discussions on aspects of leprosy control.

In Argentina, Dr. L. M. Balina, president of GRIHAN (Grupos de Investigación de la Enfermedad de Hansen) announced an essay competition on the new approaches to leprosy along with a seminar to be held in Buenos Aires. A bust of Hansen will be unveiled in a prominent place and a street in the city is to be named after him.—(*Adapted from News From ALM, Spring 1973*)

Immunotherapy study planned. Immunotherapy, a new approach to the problem of leprosy, has resulted in renewed interest in the treatment of leprosy patients. The U.S. Leprosy Panel of the U.S.-Japan Coopera-

tive Medical Science Program is planning a controlled, double-blind trial of transfer factor in the treatment of leprosy. The purpose of the trial is to determine whether the transfer factor is effective in leprosy and also if it must be specific (that is, obtained from a donor sensitive to the particular antigen). The study will be set up according to the following: patients with lepromatous leprosy in the experimental group will receive transfer factor from donors who are lepromin-positive but histoplasmin-negative; and patients in the control group will receive transfer factor from lepromin-negative but histoplasmin-positive donors.—(*Adapted from The STAR 32* [1973] 12)

New resident doctor for Kalaupapa, Molokai. For the first time since 1971 the patients at Kalaupapa have their own physician. Dr. L. Charles Koch who has worked in Boston, Los Angeles and California, has been appointed as resident physician for the 150 patients remaining on Molokai. Though present plans are to phase out Kalaupapa after the present residents have passed on, Dr. Koch intends to remain indefinitely and feels that the settlement should be maintained until that time.—(*Adapted from The STAR 32* [1973] 12)

New treatment center for Leahi Hospital in Hawaii. An agreement has been made with the Dean of the University of Hawaii School of Medicine to have a building site on the hospital grounds for leprosy patients. A year ago a financial grant was made by the Lani Ward Booth Estate to help the program but according to Thomas K. Hitch, chairman of the Citizens Committee on Leprosy, the money which was initially intended to speed things up has so far been kept idle. The Committee on Leprosy hopes things will start moving again and decided that the new buildings at Leahi will be a motel-type setup since most of the patients will be ambulatory and able to make their own beds and eat in a cafeteria for meals.—(*Adapted from The STAR 32* [1973] 12)

Professor Gavan Daws writes new biography of Father Damien entitled HOLY MAN, FATHER DAMIEN OF MOLOKAI. Professor Daws, professor of history, University of Hawaii, has written from a nonsectarian viewpoint a detailed account of Damien's life from his birth in a tiny Belgian village to his death on Molokai among his fellow victims

of leprosy. Eminently readable and thoroughly researched, *Holy Man* is a compassionate study of a saintly man with his share of human failings, a controversial figure whose death aroused worldwide concern about the problems of leprosy.

This 293 page biography was published by Harper & Row, New York, in September 1973. Price U.S. \$8.95.—(*Adapted from News From ALM, Fall 1973*)

Reverend Robert Morris Bradburn of Bellevue, Washington, appointed as director of Resource Development of American Leprosy Missions, beginning 1 June, 1973. Mr. Bradburn, a former missionary in Thailand and pastor of the Overlake Park United Presbyterian Church in Bellevue since 1967, will coordinate the fund raising activities of ALM. Major goals of the new development program are to increase financial resources to meet the increasing needs of leprosy work today and to stimulate in the United States a greater understanding of these needs and the role of voluntary agencies in combatting the disease.

During the 13 years Mr. Bradburn served as a missionary/fraternal worker in Thailand under the United Church of Christ in Thailand, he was active in leprosy work. He was governor of the Lampang Leprosy Foundation for nine years, a community organization of Buddhists and Christians which assisted hundreds of leprosy sufferers. He helped to establish a home and school for children of leprosy patients which gained the interest and support of the King and Queen of Thailand.

He was twice decorated by King Bhumipol for social welfare work, the first missionary since World War II to be so honored. He also served for three years as chaplain of the ALM-supported McKean Leprosy Hospital in Chiangmai, Thailand.

Mr. Bradburn was born and raised in Seattle, Washington. He received his B.A. at Whitworth College in Spokane and a B.D. from Princeton Theological Seminary. During World War II he served in Naval Intelligence and received the Navy Unit Commendation Medal. During his furloughs from the mission field he did graduate work in anthropology and Far Eastern studies at the University of Washington. Before entering missionary work Mr. Bradburn was pastor of the Presbyterian Church in Shawnee-on-

Delaware, Pennsylvania.—(*Adapted from News from ALM, May 16, 1973*)

World Leprosy Day observed 27 January 1974. The 21st World Leprosy Day was observed in this country and in many countries around the world on 27 January. Since its inception in 1954, World Leprosy Day has received the commendation of heads of state, world health officials and prominent religious leaders. The purpose of the observance is to bring public attention to the seriousness of the disease and the harm its unwarranted stigma inflicts upon millions of sufferers.—(*Adapted from News From ALM, Fall 1973*)

Venezuela. *Leprosy training and research center opens in Caracas, Venezuela.* The inauguration of the new International Center for Training and Research in Leprosy and Related Diseases and the first meeting of its advisory board held June 11-15, marked the beginning of a coordinated hemisphere-wide effort in leprosy control.

Dr. Jacinto Convit, head of the National Institute of Dermatology in Caracas, is director of the Center, which was established in October 1972 by the Pan American Health Organization. Dr. Convit will be assisted by an advisory board of outstanding leprosy specialists from North and South America. Dr. Oliver W. Hasselblad, president of American Leprosy Missions and a member of the board, announced a grant of \$20,000 towards the development of the center—the funds to be used principally for training, research equipment and personnel.

During the week-long meeting the leprosy experts developed programs and established priorities. One of the main purposes of the new center is to foster greater uniformity of control methods in leprosy treatment and research. Closely associated centers throughout the hemisphere will collaborate with the Caracas center in carrying out field studies which will lead to more efficient control programs.—(*Adapted from News From ALM, Spring 1973*)

Zaire. *Leprosy treatment and rehabilitation.* In central Zaire in two Kasai Provinces, leprosy treatment and rehabilitation are to be included in the new cooperative health program now underway. The new health program is a cooperative venture of American Leprosy Missions, the Board of World Missions of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.), and the Christian Medical Institute of the Kasai. For its part ALM will finance the new rehabilitation wing for the Good Shepherd Hospital now under construction at Tshikaji, near Kananga, as part of the Christian Medical Institute. Disabilities from all causes will be treated there.

The main emphasis of the new hospital is public health which will contain the only advanced teaching institution in the central provinces. Leprosy treatment and control are included in the total proposed program of providing health services, training medical workers, educating the population and research and rehabilitation.—(*Adapted from News From ALM, Spring 1973*)