

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.

1974 Damien-Dutton Award

The award was presented on 19 June 1974 in Manila on behalf of the Damien-Dutton Society by Eduardo Z. Romualdez, Ambassador of the Philippines to the United States, at a special luncheon given for Dr. Rodriguez at the Hotel International.

The citation cites Dr. Rodriguez as "an outstanding scientist, teacher and administrator who, in a lifetime devoted to the leprosy problem of the world, made major scientific advances in its diagnosis, treatment, epidemiology and control."

The following are excerpts from Mr. Romualdez's speech: "For nearly half a century Dr. Rodriguez has carried out a brilliant career in leprosy research and treatment in the Philippines and through his sustained activities and writings his influence in the International Leprosy Association has had a most significant impact on leprosy work throughout the world. He has held the positions of chief physician, Culion Leper Colony; chief, Leonard Wood Memorial and Eversley Childs Treatment Station; chief, Leprosy Division of Laboratories of the Philippine Department of Health; chief, Division of Sanitaria of the Bureau of Hospitals; and director of the Bureau of Disease Control. Dr. Rodriguez is of that breed of vanishing outstanding scientists who after spending an entire professional lifetime in the field of science and in the administration of hospital programs in the Philippines feels, with self-effacing modesty, that his best is still not enough to lighten humanity's sufferings."



Dr. and Mrs. J. N. Rodriguez.

Photo credit: Armed Forces Institute of Pathology.

Brazil. *WHO Immunology Research Center in Sao Paulo holds course on lymphocyte transformation and macrophage cultivation.* The course was held 12-22 June for South American leprosy research workers. Dr. Tore Godal of the Immunology Unit of WHO, stated that the purpose of the course was to give leprologists working in isolation the opportunity to benefit from recent advances in basic sciences now applied to leprosy, particularly new immunological methods such as the lymphocyte transformation test.

Twelve leprosy research workers from Brazil, Surinam, Colombia, Argentina and Venezuela were selected to attend. Nine immunologists from Europe and North and South America served as consultants for the sessions. At the end of the course the participants had the opportunity in a special seminar to have their own projects assessed by experts in the field.—(Adapted from NEWS FROM ALM, Spring 1974)

England. Dr. T. Frank Davey appointed chairman of editorial board for *LEPROSY REVIEW*. Dr. Davey, C.B.E., M.D., M.Sc., former head of the Victoria Hospital, Dichpalli, India, has been appointed as the new editor for *LEPROSY REVIEW*, a scientific and research quarterly of the British Leprosy Relief Association. Dr. Davey succeeds Dr. S. G. Browne, who is retiring as editor and medical secretary of BELRA.

An internationally known leprologist and research scientist, Dr. Davey was co-editor with Dr. Robert Cochrane of the second edition of *Leprosy in Theory and Practice*. He previously served as medical secretary of the Methodist Missionary Society, London, leprosy advisor to the Federal Government of Nigeria, director of the Nigerian Leprosy Service Research Unit and councillor to the ILA.

Dr. Davey hopes to have as a new regular section of the magazine articles on the exchange of ideas relating to the practical aspects of teaching, health education and leprosy control.—(*Adapted from NEWS FROM ALM*, Spring 1974)

Drs. J. MacB. C. Bisset and E. W. Price awarded the O.B.E. Both Dr. Bisset and Dr. Price have given many devoted years to the service of sufferers from leprosy and were honored accordingly in the new year of 1974: Dr. Bisset for his services to the advancement of leprosy control in Thailand, and Dr. Price for his services to leprosy control in Ethiopia.—(*Adapted from Lepr. Rev.* 45 [1974] 77)

Leprosy research in Oxford continues. Over ten years ago efforts in collaborating research in leprosy work began in the department of human anatomy at Oxford along with the National Institute for Medical Research in London when Dr. R. J. W. Rees began sending tissues for histopathologic examination, with particular reference to the mechanism of mouse model, but today the work has expanded to include a wide range of human biopsy material from the Leprosy Research Unit, Medical Research Council, Sungei Buloh, Malaysia. The group at the department of human anatomy is now under Dr. A. G. M. Weddell. In recent years the work of Dr. Elizabeth Palmer and D. G. Jamison has been carried on by Drs. Rosa Edwards (microbiologist), Janny Boddington (electron microscopist), and Colin McDou-

gall (clinician). In association with Prof. Weddell their main interests are now: 1) the mechanism of nerve damage in leprosy; 2) the ultrastructure of the leprosy bacillus in the treated and untreated patient, effect of antileprosy drugs on the morphology of the bacillus and patterns of phagosomes and lysosomes which occur at different stages of lepromatous disease; 3) the physicochemical penetration of antileprosy drugs into mammalian peripheral nerves; 4) the histopathological and bacillary changes, as seen on light microscopy in skin, nerve, muscle and scrotum following various drug regimes; and 5) histopathology of lepromatous leprosy in the nose.

In 1970 Dr. R. G. Cochrane opened an annex of six beds for the admission of leprosy patients at the Slade Hospital in Oxford. Although the total is small some highly bacilliferous patients have been admitted in the past three years and diagnosed, treated and studied with valuable information obtained in these areas. The Oxford group wishes to extend their sincere thanks to LEPRO for continuing financial help with salaries and scientific equipment received.—(*Adapted from Lepr. Rev.* 45 [1974] 74)

Ethiopia. *Inaugural lecture of the Kellersberger Memorial Lectures delivered on 31 May* at the annual general meeting of the Ethiopian Medical Association in Addis Ababa by Dr. Jacinto Convit, Director, International Center for Training and Research in Leprosy and Related Diseases, Venezuela, and president of International Leprosy Association.

The inaugural lecture, entitled "Leprosy and Leishmaniasis—Similar Clinical, Pathological and Immunological Models," was heard by the 200 members of the Ethiopian Medical Association, leaders in government and public affairs, and physicians attending ALERT's study courses. It will be published in an early edition of the *JOURNAL OF THE ETHIOPIAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION*.

During his stay in Addis Ababa, Dr. Convit held informal sessions with various units of ALERT on the contribution of health education to rehabilitation and leprosy control. On 29 May he lectured at the Faculty of Medicine of Haile Selassie I University. Discussions were also held on the exchange of personnel between ALERT and the International Center in Venezuela and cooperation

in the preparation of teaching materials.

"The Kellersberger Memorial Lectures not only honor Dr. Kellersberger for his contribution to leprosy control and his early efforts to establish the training center in Addis Ababa," said Dr. O. Hasselblad, president of American Leprosy Missions, "they will also help to advance knowledge about the disease looking toward its ultimate solution." Each year the lecture will be given by a leprosy specialist of international renown and will be printed and distributed to medical schools and leprosy workers around the world.—(*Adapted from ALM Newsletter, June 1974*)

Leprosy control in Ethiopia. An account is given of the government program of leprosy treatment/control in Ethiopia, in which 48,352 patients out of an estimated total of 125,000 have been brought under treatment, mainly through clinics operating in small market towns. Reasons for the failure of premature attempts at integrating the leprosy service into the general health services are given. Tribute is paid to the cooperation of voluntary agencies, the work of ALERT, and the Armauer Hansen Research Institute. [Based on a report by E. W. Price, Chief, Leprosy Control Project, Imperial Ethiopian Ministry of Public Health, Addis Ababa.] —S. G. Browne (*Adapted from Lepr. Rev.* 45 [1974] 78-79)

India. *Indian Leprosy Association (Hind Kusht Nivaran Sangh).* An informative essay by S. S. Maitra, Honorary Secretary, Indian Leprosy Association, appears in *The STAR* presenting the history and objectives of the Association. The Association was formed in 1950 and established two important objectives as its goals: control and relief of leprosy patients and eradication of leprosy in India. The headquarters, located in New Delhi with 16 outlying branches, initiates these programs which are in turn implemented by its various branches. The official organ of the Association is a scientific quarterly journal, *LEPROSY IN INDIA*, which publishes articles on leprosy work being done mainly in India and in other countries. The Association also maintains a home "Shanti Illam" which temporarily houses destitute leprosy patients undergoing treatment at the Christian Medical College in Vellore. Here the patients are taught rehabilitative measures such as new

trades during their short-term stay, and are encouraged to be as self-reliant as possible. The Association continues to concentrate on health education, rehabilitation of leprosy patients and public awareness regarding the problems confronting these patients and ultimately the eradication of leprosy in India.—(*Adapted from The STAR* 33 No. 6 [1974] 14)

Japan. *Dr. Yoshio Yoshie and Dr. Masashi Namba.* In May of this year, Dr. Yoshie, at the age of 72 years, retired as director of the National Institute for Leprosy Research in Tokyo, as secretary-treasurer of the Japanese Leprosy Association, and as editor of *LA LEPRO*. He also retired from his previous position as chairman of the Japan Leprosy Panel. Dr. Yoshie will continue to serve as an advisor to the leprosy institute. Dr. Namba assumed Dr. Yoshie's duties as editor of *LA LEPRO*, secretary-treasurer of the Japanese Leprosy Association and director of the research institute.

Liberia. *Dr. Paul Getty appointed director of National Leprosy Control Board in Liberia.* Dr. Getty, an American Methodist medical missionary, is a specialist in leprosy reconstructive surgery and head of the American Leprosy Missions—supported leprosy program of the Ganta United Methodist Mission Hospital. He will continue his work at Ganta, a key training center for the new national leprosy control program.

The WHO estimates about 21,500 leprosy cases in the country: only 4,036 are under treatment and 3,000 of these are inpatients at 11 leprosaria.

Under the new government plan leprosy control will be completely integrated into the country's basic health facilities and the number of leprosaria reduced to four main centers for special care. The others will be closed or made into outpatient clinics. The new program emphasizes outpatient treatment for all cases except those needing surgery or other special care, early case finding, rehabilitation, leprosy training for all medical personnel and public health education.

During the last four years the Ganta hospital has been a center for leprosy training in Liberia. Its annual courses in every aspect of control, treatment and rehabilitation draw doctors, nurses and technicians from hospitals countrywide, both government and mis-

sion.—(*Adapted from NEWS FROM ALM, Spring 1974*)

Nigeria. Dr. Roy E. Pfaltzgraff and Dr. Anthony Bryceson write a new book on leprosy entitled **Leprosy for Students of Medicine**. This leprosy handbook for medical students published by Churchill Livingstone, Edinburgh, Scotland (UK 1.50), developed from an annual course given at the Garkida Hospitals in Nigeria for medical students of Ahmadu Bello University in Zaria.

Dr. Pfaltzgraff, director of the Garkida leprosy program, and Dr. Bryceson, of the department of medicine at the University, wrote this 152 page, illustrated paperback which covers the basic disciplines involved in studying leprosy as well as the clinical and social aspects of patient care. The authors point out that though their experience is mainly African, they believe the book may be useful to doctors in other areas, as well as to students for whom it is written.—(*Adapted from NEWS FROM ALM, Spring 1974*)

Sierra Leone. *Leprosy control programs officially inaugurated.* In January 1973 the inception of a government sponsored leprosy control program designed to cover the whole country was inaugurated. As early as 1957 sample surveys revealed a prevalence of leprosy in Sierra Leone sufficient to warrant initiation of specific control measures. Beginning as early as 1957 various agencies such as LEPROA, Catholic Relief Services and the German Leprosy Relief Association, volunteered their assistance and set up various leprosy control programs and treatment centers throughout the country. Under the government program a leprologist and an administrative director will serve under the deputy chief medical officer, general manager and director of the program. Several important aspects of this new program are: a leprosarium at Masanga for special cases of reaction and temporary hospital treatment; shoemaking centers providing footwear for patients set up at Makeni and Masanga; 16 mobile units set in operation bringing health education and treatment to patients in their own villages; each center, attached to the local hospitals, has a leprosy control officer as its supervisor. Three medical doctors, specially trained in leprosy

work, reside in Makeni, Masanga and Bo and are responsible for the medical aspects of the program.—(*Adapted from Lepr. Rev. 45 [1974] 80-81*)

Surinam. *Seminar for Caribbean leprosy officers held in Paramaribo, Surinam at the Basic Sciences Institute, May 20-25.* At a recent seminar sponsored by the Pan American Health Organization, Dr. O. W. Hasselblad delivered a lecture on "The Psycho-Social Aspects of Leprosy." He maintained that leprosy: "has the peculiar distinction of being, in the public mind, the worst disaster that can befall a person."

The ability and likelihood of the patient to regain a useful and creative role in community life, he said: "is in almost direct proportion to the length of time he has been institutionalized. Only when leprosy is included in comprehensive community planning and is treated by the same personnel responsible for the prevention and treatment of other major health problems, will both the patient and the community believe that leprosy is a disease like any other."

Other seminar leaders were Drs. Jacinto Convit, Jose Arvelo, Merlin L. Brubaker and Celio de Paula Motta.

The week-long seminar included discussions of the various aspects of leprosy concerning eye problems, epidemiology, diagnosis, immunology and treatment, case finding, public health education, preventive rehabilitation and psycho-social problems. Dr. P. L. A. Niemel, Director, Dermatologic Service, Surinam and Dr. Vladimir Rathousier, PAHO/WHO Country Representative, organized the seminar.—(*Adapted from ALM NEWS, Spring 1974*)

Switzerland. *Extracts from the proceedings of the Twenty-Seventh World Health Assembly held in Geneva, May 1974.*

Having studied the proposed program and budget estimates for 1975 and the Director-General's annual report for 1973; and recalling that leprosy is still a widespread and serious disease; and considering that the new microbiological techniques, particularly animal inoculation, and immunological methods as well as the development of new epidemiological approaches seem likely to speed up leprosy control and make it more effective:

1. Thanks the Director-General for his report and requests him to pursue the efforts for leprosy control undertaken by WHO.
2. Recommends that Member States examine the possibility of strengthening leprosy control measures by calling upon all available sources of cooperation.
3. Invites Member States to have recourse to the organization's advisory and coordinatory services so that optimum use can be made of these extra resources.
4. Invites the Director-General to convene a meeting of the Expert Committee on Leprosy to review the practical introduction of modern methods of leprosy control.—(Submitted by S. G. Browne)

Human rights and medical advances discussed at a round table in Geneva. In November 1973, under the auspices of the Council for International Organizations of Medical Sciences (CIOMS), a panel of 32 scientists, theologians, philosophers and jurists opened discussions of the above themes. Participation from representatives of some 87 international scientific member organizations was welcomed.

The ILA (which, incidentally, was elected to the executive committee of the CIOMS at the preceding business meeting) was represented at the round table by its secretary-treasurer, Dr. S. G. Browne. Some of the topics considered were only indirectly related to leprosy, such as social implications of new genetic and medical techniques, the definition of death, euthanasia, abortion and sterilization, use of food additives and experiments in psychiatry. Other topics relating more specifically to leprosy were the clinical testing of new drugs and procedures and experimentation on human subjects. The ethical and moral implications of some of the new techniques, like amniocentesis and genetic engineering were actively discussed and debated.

The CIOMS has developed into a kind of ethical watchdog or conscience for the medical sciences, and while retaining its links with WHO and UNESCO it is able to maintain an independent and objective stance in regard to the moral aspects of medicine.—(Adapted from *Lepr. Rev.* 45 [1974] 77)



U.S.A. The Rev. Roger K. Ackley of Carmel, Indiana, former specialist in international refugee resettlement work, has been elected president of American Leprosy Missions. Mr. Ackley, who took over his new post 1 September 1974, succeeded Dr. Oliver W. Hasselblad.

Dr. Hasselblad, internationally renowned in world leprosy control, is retiring after 15 years as president but will continue to serve the organization as medical consultant.

Mr. Ackley, a Baptist minister, has had a wide and varied career in the Christian ministry, the business world and in government and international service. He spent 16 years directing resettlement programs for the U.S. government, the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration (UNRRA) and the International Refugee Organization (IRO). Under his direction some one million victims of the dislocation of war were helped.

His service in resettlement programs began in 1945 when he was appointed by the U.S. Department of Interior as relocation officer in Salinas, California, where he was in charge of reintegrating into the community Japanese-Americans who had been interned during World War II.

For the next five years he worked with UNRRA and the IRO in Germany repatriating refugees and setting up child care, welfare and training programs. During this period he developed the largest processing

emigration center in the British zone. After the resettlement program closed, Mr. Ackley spent a year in Washington for the Technical Cooperation Administration on the Egypt desk. From 1952-1955 he was program director in Egypt for the Point 4 program.

An emergency assignment sent him to Vietnam in 1955 as one of four technical experts of the State Department to advise the French and Vietnamese on the evacuation of refugees from North Vietnam to the South. In a period of six months 850,000 refugees were resettled. The evacuation was completed in 1956 and he was then transferred to Germany where he headed the Escapee Program for Western Europe for the next five years. He negotiated with European governments to accept refugees from the Iron Curtain countries, worked out training programs and set up a processing center in Salzburg for Hungarian refugees. In 1960 Mr. Ackley was appointed U.S. Consul in Salzburg.

From 1962-1972 he was associated with KLM Royal Dutch Airlines with headquarters in Chicago. As midwest regional manager he was responsible for sales, public relations, administration and training of staff in eight offices.

Before accepting the presidency of American Leprosy Missions Mr. Ackley was Indiana state program director of ACTION, a government volunteer and senior citizen program.

Born in Schenectady, New York, Mr. Ackley was educated in California where he received an A.B. at the University of Redlands and studied at the Eastern Baptist Theological Seminary and the University of Southern California. After his graduate study he worked for six years in the field of Christian education, serving the Wilshire Presbyterian Church in Los Angeles, the First Friends Church in Whittier, California, the First Baptist Church in Portland, Oregon and the Southern California Baptist Convention in Los Angeles. In 1944 he was ordained by the First Baptist Church of Whittier and served a year as minister of the First Baptist Church in Grand Junction, Colorado, before his government appointment as relocation officer in California.

Mr. Ackley is married to the former Rita Senior of London, England. They have three children: John, 14, Evelyn, 10 and Paul, 7. As of 26 August the Ackleys reside at 430

Ridgewood Avenue, Glen Ridge, New Jersey.—(Adapted from ALM Newsletter 23 July 1974)

USSR. *Leprosy in the USSR.* Presently, approximately 2,000 leprosy patients are being treated in 16 leprosaria; some 70% are probably there for life due to gross deformities which prevent them from being reintegrated into society. In addition, about 4,000 outpatients are being treated. In 1972, 100 new cases were diagnosed country-wide with students from outside the USSR accounting for 40 cases diagnosed during the past 20 years. For the past six years the activities of the Moscow Research Institute have been linked closely with the Leprosy Section of WHO. *Emmaus Suisse* (Swiss Leprosy Relief Association) has provided chemical reagents as well as photographic supplies for leprosy research which are at times difficult to obtain in the USSR.—(Adapted from *Lepr. Rev.* 45 [1974] 79-80)

Venezuela. *Health education as a primary instrument of rehabilitation proves successful in Venezuela.* Dr. O. W. Hasselblad reports his findings after a three-week survey in February on the results of the seven-year rehabilitation program which is under the direction of Dr. Jose Arvelo, deputy director of the National Institute of Dermatology in Caracas.

The effectiveness of the new approach depends on leprosy workers who establish a personal relationship of mutual trust with the patient, making him aware of his own responsibility for prevention and treatment of disabilities. Frequent visits to patients' homes by local paramedical workers who show interest in their total welfare also help to change the attitudes of both patients and community about the disease. Some 150 auxiliary workers are assigned to 29 leprosy services throughout the country in rural and urban areas.

Dr. Hasselblad remarks "Without the use of sophisticated rehabilitation equipment and facilities, massive ulcers were completely healed, clawed and disabled hands restored to full function, eye problems cleared up. But even more important was the intangible effect of this internalized health education program on the individual, whose sense of dignity and self respect was restored."—(Adapted from NEWS FROM ALM, Spring 1974)