

## 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.*



**England.** *Mr. A. D. Askew becomes new international general secretary of The Leprosy Mission.* Mr. Askew, writer, artist and educator, took over the post in July, succeeding Mr. Newberry Fox.

He first volunteered for service with The Leprosy Mission in 1950 and was sent to the Mission's largest hospital in Purulia, West Bengal. During the 15 years he remained in service at Purulia, he began his work as a school teacher but was gradually drawn into the administrative aspects of hospital functioning and development and later became head of this large hospital community. During his tenure Purulia became one of the first leprosy centers in India to establish a physical therapy and reconstructive surgery department.

In 1965, Mr. Askew and his family returned to London where he was invited to become the executive secretary of the Mis-

sion, and from 1968 served as its assistant general secretary. He has traveled extensively on behalf of the organization's world-wide program.—(Adapted from NEWS FROM ALM, Fall 1974; NEW DAY, Summer [1974] 6-7)

*Teaching kit for teachers and leprosy workers prepared for Africa.* Dr. Colin McDougall, Department of Anatomy and the Cochrane Annex, Slade Hospital, Oxford, has recently produced a set of color transparencies including a full written text and tape commentary, to assist teachers and workers in Africa and elsewhere.

The 24 transparencies cover etiology, theories on transmission, diagnosis, classification, nerve damage, differential diagnosis and prophylaxis. The author realizes that this series cannot alone claim to be a comprehensive account of the whole spectrum of leprosy and he stresses that the field of adverse reactions alone would justify an entire series. "HD in Children" is produced by Dr. David Morley and is obtainable from the Institute of Child Health, 30 Guilford Street, London WC1N 1EH, England.—(Adapted from The STAR 34, No. 1 [1974] 12)

*Transparencies on the classification of leprosy available through LEPROA.* A set of transparencies covering the clinical and histological spectrum of leprosy has been prepared by Drs. W. H. Jopling and D. S. Ridley on behalf of LEPROA. The set of 10 clinical and 14 histological transparencies, accompanied by legends and information, is suitable for teaching purposes. Apply to the Director, LEPROA, Fairfax House, Causton Road, Colchester, England, and enclose a check for 2 pounds or \$5 U.S. as a contribution towards the cost of the slides and postage.—LEPROA

**India.** *Dr. Ernest Fritschi named new medical superintendent for Schieffelin Leprosy Center in Karigiri.* Dr. Fritschi, M.B., F.R.C.S., D.Orth., former chief of surgery and rehabilitation at ALERT in Addis Ababa, has, for the second time, been named medical superintendent of the Wm. Jay

Schieffelin Research Sanatorium. He will be working under the auspices of American Leprosy Missions.

It was 20 years ago that Dr. Fritschi served as head of the newly established institution and helped turn it into the leading training center in the world for leprosy reconstructive surgery. Earlier he worked at Vellore Christian Medical College with Dr. Paul Brand in the development of rehabilitation surgery.

Before going to ALERT he served under The Leprosy Mission at the Vellore Christian Medical College in India as staff surgeon and lecturer and in Indonesia as leader of the rehabilitation training team in Jakarta. Dr. Fritschi is also author of the recently published book *Reconstructive Surgery in Leprosy*.—(Adapted from NEWS FROM ALM, Fall 1974)

*Dr. M. S. Nilakanta Rao receives Padmashri award from President of India.* During the 1974 Republic Day awards Dr. Rao, B.Sc., M.B.B.S., Director, Gandhi Memorial Leprosy Foundation, Wardha, was awarded the Padmashri award by the President of India in recognition of his services to the cause of leprosy.

Dr. Rao joined the Foundation about 12 years ago. For seven years he served as its medical officer and then joint director for six months. From the year 1970 he has been its medical director. He is a member of various scientific bodies and associations, and was the convenor-secretary of the Silver Jubilee Session of the All India Leprosy Workers' Conference and Centenary of Hansen's Bacillus Discovery. Dr. Rao is to be congratulated on the honor bestowed on him.—(Adapted from Lepr. India 1974)

**Israel.** *XIII World Rehabilitation Congress 1976 to be held in Tel Aviv.* Rehabilitation International announces the dates of the congress to be 21-25 June 1976. The secretary-general of the congress is Dr. E. Chigier from whom all information may be obtained at the following address: P.O. Box 16271, Tel Aviv, Israel. In the past at several of the quadrennial congresses, leprosy has been well represented and special sessions of interest to leprosy workers have been organized.

**Jamaica.** *Barclay Bank International sponsors leprosy education campaign in Ja-*

*maica.* According to the Honorable Dr. Kenneth McNeill, Minister of Health and Environmental Control, the future policy of Jamaica's Health Ministry will be the treatment of leprosy on an outpatient basis integrated with general health services. Dr. McNeill's statements were made at a meeting in Kingston on 2 July opening a month-long campaign of public education on leprosy.

With Barclay Bank International as its sponsor, the campaign was designed to draw public attention to the controllable and curable nature of leprosy through public discussions, television and radio interviews and church programs. The basis of the public education campaign was derived from recommendations made by Dr. Oliver Hasselblad who in 1973 conducted a survey of Jamaica's leprosy problem at the invitation of the Jamaican Government through the Pan American Health Organization.—(Adapted from NEWS FROM ALM, Fall 1974)

**Mexico.** *Dr. Fernanco Latapi reelected president of Mexican Leprosy Association.* At its summer meeting, the *Asociación Mexicana de Acción Contra la Lepra* reelected Dr. Latapi, renowned professor of dermatology and leprology, as its president. In 1948 he co-founded the Association and has served as its president ever since. He also founded the *Centro Dermatológico Pascua* for leprosy and other skin diseases, the most important skin clinic in Mexico.—(Adapted from NEWS FROM ALM, Fall 1974)

**Netherlands.** *Netherlands agency grants funds for leprosy rehabilitation.* Four church-related leprosy centers in India and Africa have received grants totalling \$120,000 for social rehabilitation programs. The funds were raised by the Organization of Ecumenical Assistance to Churches in Utrecht, Netherlands, and were given through the Christian Medical Commission of the World Council of Churches.

American Leprosy Missions selected the four centers which will receive the grants for a three year period. They are the Menonite Leprosy Control Center in Shirati, Tanzania; the Christian Fellowship Leprosy Hospital in Oddanchatram, India; the Methodist-related Ellen Thoburn Cowen Memori-

al Hospital in Kolar, India; and the Rural Health Project in Jamkhed, India, related to the United Christian Board of World Missions.

These funds will enable the centers to integrate leprosy into general health care services and to ensure the social and economic rehabilitation of patients who have been discharged from treatment. Annual progress reports from the centers will be utilized by the Netherlands agency to promote, with other development organizations, the concepts of rehabilitation and integration.—(Adapted from NEWS FROM ALM, Fall 1974)

**Spain.** *Dr. J. Terencio de las Aguas elected to medical commission of ELEP.* En la IX Asamblea General de la ELEP (Federación Europea de Asociaciones de Luchas contra la Lepra en el Mundo), celebrada en la ciudad de Berna (Suiza) durante los días 29, 30 y 31 de marzo del corriente año, fue propuesta por varias asociaciones miembros, la candidatura del profesor doctor don José Terencio de las Aguas, como nuevo integrante de la Comisión Médica de dicha Federación.

La Asamblea General reunida en pleno aceptó por unanimidad la elección del doctor Terencio como miembro de la Comisión Médica.

Es realmente para nosotros un gran honor que nuestro Director médico sea miembro de la Comisión Médica del ELEP que supondrá un aumento de la ya estrecha colaboración científica y social de Fontilles con dicha organización.—Daniel Richeri, Médico Residente (*From Rev. Leprol.* 9 [1974] 501)

*Prizes from the Spanish Academy of Dermatology offered.* Por iniciativa de la Junta Directiva y con la aprobación de la Junta General la Academia convoca concurso para premiar trabajos de Dermatología y Venereología, con carácter anual en las condiciones que a continuación se estipulan.

**Premio Sainz de Aja.** Dotado con 15.000 Pesetas con carácter Ibero-Americano. La familia de nuestro llorado Presidente de Honor D. Enrique Alvarez Sainz de Aja, ha creado este premio al que podrán optar todos los médicos españoles o de países ibero-americanos que lo deseen.

Los trabajos serán sobre un Tema libre de Dermatología o Venereología originales e

inéditos, escritos a máquina en triple ejemplar, y podrán ser entregados en el local social de la Academia (Calle Sandoval 7 Madrid) hasta el día 1 de Diciembre del año actual.

Serán entregados en un sobre cerrado con un lema. En sobre aparte, con el mismo lema, la dirección y el nombre de autor o autores.

Los trabajos serán estudiados por una comisión de tres académicos, designados por la Junta Directiva, que decidirán el trabajo que ha de ser premiado. Podrán declarar el premio desierto si no hubiera ningún trabajo suficientemente calificado. Igualmente podrán conceder Accésits sin premio en metálico, si hubiera varios trabajos merecedores de ello.

Los premios serán otorgados en la primera Sesión del año 1.976 abriéndose públicamente los sobres que contengan el mismo lema y los nombres de los autores. Los sobres con lemas no premiados serán quemados.

Los trabajos premiados quedarán de propiedad de la Academia y serán publicados en Actas Dermosifiliográficas.

Los autores que deseen que su trabajo tenga también opción al Premio de la Academia Española de Dermatología, deberán hacerlo constar así.

**Premio Academia Española de Dermatología.** Dotado con 15.000 Pesetas con carácter internacional. Por acuerdo de la Junta Directiva de la Academia, ratificado en Junta General de 18 de Enero de 1.967, se convoca este premio al que pueden concurrir los médicos de cualquier nacionalidad.

Las bases serán las mismas que en el Premio Sainz de Aja, el Tema libre de Dermatología y Venereología y el plazo de presentación de trabajos el día 1 de Diciembre de 1.975 en ejemplar triplicado, bajo sobre con un lema y sobre aparte, con el mismo lema, conteniendo la dirección y nombre del autor o autores.

La decisión se dará a conocer en la Primera Sesión de 1.976, en la misma forma que se hará en el Premio Sainz de Aja.—Dr. F. Contreras Dueñas

**U.S.A. American Lung Association releases new classifications for tuberculosis, reflecting modern medical opinion which considers TB in the same light as it does measles, pneumonia or pregnancy.**

"Twenty years experience with anti-TB drugs proves that adequate chemotherapy can cure, rather than just arrest, TB," says Dr. John C. Weg of the American Thoracic Society. "Because TB no longer is a disease with a lifetime of flare-ups and remissions, the patient can be discharged from care, with TB records becoming a part of the medical history, just like any other condition from which he or she has recovered."

The new edition of the lung association's publication *Diagnostic Standards and Classifications of Tuberculosis* covers the entire population with four basic classifications explained as follows:

1. *No tuberculosis exposure, not infected.* No history of exposure, negative tuberculin skin test.

2. *Tuberculosis exposure, no evidence of infection.* History of exposure, negative tuberculin test.

3. *Tuberculosis infection, without disease.* Positive tuberculin skin test, negative bacteriological studies (if done), no x-ray findings compatible with tuberculosis, no symptoms due to tuberculosis.

4. *Tuberculosis: infected, with disease.* The current status of the patient's tuberculosis is described by three characteristics: location of the disease, bacteriological status, and chemotherapy status. For some patients additional characteristics—x-ray findings and tuberculin skin test reaction—would be included.

This latest edition also includes recent knowledge on development and transmission of TB and lung diseases caused by other mycobacteria, diagnosis and demonstration of the tubercle bacillus in clinical specimens, and TB bacteriology, including drug susceptibility testing.—(Adapted from AMERICAN LUNG ASSOCIATION News Release, 1974)

*Dr. J. Henry Long elected chairman of American Leprosy Missions.* Dr. Long, Associate Professor of Sociology, Elizabethtown College, Pennsylvania, succeeds Dr. Theodore Taylor who resigned the chairmanship after eight years of service. Dr. Taylor will continue to serve as a member of the Board.

Dr. Long previously spent 15 years in world missions work serving at one time as the executive secretary of the Foreign Mission Commission of the Church of the Breth-

ren, and, after World War II, spent two years in Poland and Austria in relief and reconstruction for the Brethren Service Commission and the Reconstruction Committee of the Protestant churches of Austria.

He has also served on various boards of the Division of Overseas Ministries of the National Council of Churches, USA and many of its specialized committees.

Born and raised in Pennsylvania, Dr. Long graduated from Elizabethtown College and from Bethany Biblical Seminary where he received a Bachelor of Divinity, cum laude. He also received an honorary Doctor of Divinity from Bethany. He was ordained as a minister by the Spring Creek Congregation in Hershey, Pennsylvania and to eldership in northern Illinois and Wisconsin.

Dr. Long has had an extensive interest in leprosy and has been a member of the Board of Directors of ALM since 1967.—(From ALM News Release Dec. 12, 1974)

*Heiser Fellowship Program for Research in Leprosy.* A new postdoctoral fellowship program for beginning research training in basic science fields related to leprosy has been established and awards will be offered by The New York Community Trust through its corporate affiliate, Community Funds, Inc., from the income of the Victor Heiser Grant.

Four to six awards will be made each year, in two categories: postdoctoral fellowships and visiting research awards. The postdoctoral fellowships are designed to attract young biomedical scientists with either the Ph.D. or M.D. degree, who are in the early stages of postdoctoral training and interested in obtaining research training in a basic science field directly relevant to the study of leprosy. The visiting research awards are designed to provide travel and subsistence allowances permitting a wide range of established leprosy-relevant investigators to visit institutions abroad for periods up to six months.

Inquiries should be addressed to the Director, Heiser Fellowship Program for Research in Leprosy, 1230 York Avenue, New York, New York 10021.—(From The New York Community Trust News Release, Nov. 22, 1974)

*Sixteenth annual leprosy seminar scheduled for Carville, 3-9 April 1975.* The U.S. Public Health Service Hospital in Carville

will cosponsor with ALM their annual seminar which provides basic orientation for medical personnel in all aspects of leprosy control and management. Special emphasis this year will be placed on the control of leprosy in the context of comprehensive community medical services.

Dr. Jose Arvelo, a specialist in this field, will report on the extensive domiciliary treatment program in Venezuela and will lead a discussion on the importance of health education in leprosy control and preventive rehabilitation.

In addition to the Carville hospital staff,

other seminar leaders will be Drs. Roy Pfaltzgraff and Paul Fasal. Welcoming addresses will be given by Mr. Roger Ackley, President, ALM and Dr. John Trautman, Director, USPHS Hospital, Carville. In addition to domiciliary treatment, other areas of investigation will be armadillo research, immune mechanisms, histopathology, epidemiology, differential diagnosis, neural involvement, reparative surgery, eye problems, leprosy reactions, the use of dermatological terminology in leprosy, training of paramedical workers, and physical and occupational therapy.—(From ALM News Release Jan. 10, 1975)