

## 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.*

## 1976 Damien-Dutton Award



On 20 September 1976 Dr. Yoshio Yoshie was presented the 1976 Damien-Dutton Award at the Sasakawa Hall, Tokyo, where the Eleventh Joint Leprosy Research Conference of the U.S.-Japan Cooperative Medical Science Program was being held.

The citation reads: "1976 Damien-Dutton Award presented to Dr. Yoshio Yoshie who as Director, National Institute for Leprosy Research, and Chairman, Japanese Leprosy Panel, led his colleagues in achieving outstanding scientific advances toward the conquest of leprosy. U.S.-Japan Conference—Tokyo, September 1976."

Dr. Yoshie, who was recognized as a senior distinguished contributor in the Centennial Festschrift issue of the IJL **41**, No. 2, graduated from the Tokyo University School of Medicine in 1926, and served as doctor-in-chief of the National Leprosarium Tama Zenshoen in 1937 until 1955. From 1955-1962 he served as chief of the research department of the National Institute for Leprosy Research, and then served as its director from 1962 until his retirement in May 1974. In addition to his many other activities he served as secretary-treasurer of the Japanese Leprosy Association, editor of LA LEPRO, and chairman of the Japanese Leprosy Panel. During his active years of leprosy research Dr. Yoshie contributed many articles contributing to advances in the area of the microbiology of *M. leprae*.

**Canada.** *Leprosy research "Hansen Pavilion" officially inaugurated at Institut Armand-Frappier.* On the 30th of August 1976, at 12:30 p.m., the Premier of the Province of Quebec, the Honorable Robert Bourassa, officially inaugurated the leprosy research pavilion of the Institut Armand-Frappier, located at 531 des Prairies Boulevard, City of Laval.

Built through the generosity of two anonymous Canadian foundations and the Ministry of National Health and Social Welfare through its Health Resources Fund, this building will house the laboratories of a research group that has worked on leprosy for more than 25 years.

This development will help the researchers of the Institut Armand-Frappier to intensify their efforts towards a better understanding of this particular disease and to establish better ways and means for the eradication of leprosy.

During the inaugural ceremony of the HANSEN PAVILION, addresses were given by the following persons: the president of the Board of Directors, Mr. André Charron; the president of l'Université du Québec, Mr. Robert Després; on special mission for this very occasion, Mr. Erik Waaler, representative of the Government of Norway, where the Hansen bacillus was discovered in 1873; the director of the Institut Armand-Frappier, Dr. Aurèle Beaulnes; and the Premier of the Province of Quebec, the Honourable Robert Bourassa.

Among the 200 guests, were many distinguished representatives of the federal, provincial and municipal governments, of the diplomatic and consular corps, and of many Canadian and foreign nongovernmental organizations, as well as of the university milieu and of the financial and philanthropic world. Among those present were Hansen's grandson, the Honourable Ministers Jean-Pierre Goyer and Claude Forget, the Archbishop of Montreal Mgr. Paul Grégoire, the Mayor of the City of Laval, Dr. Lucien Paielement, the deputy-minister of National Health, Mr. Jean Lupien, and senior representatives from a number of societies and agencies, namely the Fame Pereio Institute, the Leprosy Relief (Canada), the Canadian Red Cross, the Canadian Leprosy Council, the International Medical Assistance, l'Association française des Fondations Raoul Folleau, and the Ecumenical Council of

Churches of Geneva.

Many members of the military and Hospitalier Order of St. Lazarus of Jerusalem, whose preoccupation towards leprosy dates back nearly 1,000 years and whose International Reunion was held in Quebec City from August 26-29 were also present.—Claude Le Gris (Director of Public Relations, Institut Armand-Frappier)

**England.** *Dr. S. G. Browne honored.* Dr. Browne, who serves as medical consultant to The Leprosy Mission, has been appointed president-elect of the Royal Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene. He will assume the office in mid-1977 and will hold the office for two years.—News from The Leprosy Mission, 27 July 1976

*Leprosy doctors and other personnel needed for service in The Leprosy Mission.* The latest list (as of 25 July 1976) of personnel needed in The Leprosy Mission overseas includes ten doctors (six physicians, one surgeon, two physician/surgeons, one ophthalmologist), five nursing officers, five physiotherapists, a laboratory technician, and an administrator/engineer. They are all needed in spite of the increasing numbers of national staff who are currently being trained and appointed by The Mission in the countries where it is at work. Please address inquiries to: The Leprosy Mission, 50 Portland Place, London W1N 3DG, England.—News from The Leprosy Mission, 27 July 1976

**Germany.** *Health needs of society and a challenge for medical education: a round table conference organized by CIOMS.* The Council for International Organization of Medical Sciences is a nongovernmental organization established by UNESCO and the World Health Organization. Its membership includes 68 international organizations and 22 national members representing academies of science and research national councils of particular countries, making a total of 90 organizations. In recent years, CIOMS has attempted to stimulate the conscience of medical workers through a series of round table conferences. These conferences have covered a wide range of topics, such as "Medical Research—Priorities and Responsibilities," "Training of Research Workers in the Medical Sciences," "Protection of Human Rights in the Light of Scientific and Technological Progress in Biology and Med-

icine," "Medical Care and Society."

The CIOMS Conference held in Ulm, Germany, 6-10 July 1976, was organized and financed by the German Research Society, on the theme "Health Needs of Society: A Challenge for Medical Education." It was attended by about 35 participants from four continents. The International Leprosy Association, a member of CIOMS, was represented by Prof. M. F. Lechat. The topics considered included: health and disease around the world, implications of health and disease for the responsibilities and obligations of the medical profession, the responsibilities of medical education in training the future physician, and medical education as a social phenomenon.

Although these topics were not specifically related to leprosy, the discussions offered many opportunities to stress leprosy as an important health and social problem in many countries, a major responsibility for public health authorities and a challenge for medical education. Dr. Kamunvi, Director, East African Medical Research Council of the East African Community, in Arusha, Tanzania, and Honorary Secretary, East African Leprosy Association, emphasized leprosy as being an example of the complex relations between illnesses and the attitude of the society toward sick people. While the goal of medicine is not only to cure diseases but to keep people adjusted to their environment as useful members of the community, society may tend to make diseases worse by restricting the movements of sick people, denying education to children, refusing the right to marriage, isolating those afflicted by certain diseases (like leprosy), and obliging them to rely on the assistance of others.

The need to include leprosy in the training of primary health care workers was mentioned. Among the resolutions presented for discussion at the end of the meeting was one advocating the orientation and training of medical students on actual community problems, among which leprosy must be included. There are no valid reasons that would justify the exclusion—or the virtual exclusion—of leprosy in the curricula of many medical schools in various countries. All doctors should have instruction in the diagnosis and treatment of leprosy.—M. F. Lechat

**India.** *Annual Reports 1973-1974 for Central Leprosy Teaching and Research Insti-*

*tute, Chingleput.* These reports have just been received from the institute in India. They are issued by the Government of India Press in 1976, each comprises about 60 pages and are too packed with a great variety of detail to be adequately summarized. A perusal of the reports indicates that this important and well-known leprosy center continues to maintain a strong research and training program in addition to its broad and varied clinical services. Thus, the 1974 report describes 25 research projects virtually spanning most areas of leprosy interest. There were held in that year 14 meetings of the Clinical Society including many presentations by varied visitors of repute as well as staff members. Six training programs were conducted and six WHO Fellows received training at the institute.—Olaf K. Skinsnes

**Jamaica.** *Dr. Oliver Hasselblad writes booklet on leprosy control in Jamaica.* The Minister of Health and Environmental Control has issued a booklet "Guide to Leprosy Control in Jamaica." It is written by Dr. Hasselblad who is currently in charge of the leprosy program in Jamaica. This concise presentation outlines most general areas of case finding, patient care and disease control.—Olaf K. Skinsnes

**Malaysia.** *Dr. M. K. Bhojwani, Director, National Leprosy Control Center, Sungei Buloh, initiates new method of integration for leprosy and nonleprosy patients.* The leprosarium at Sungei Buloh is about 14 miles from Kuala Lumpur, and there is no government district hospital between Kuala Lumpur and Kuala Selangor, the latter town being on the coast about 25 miles from Sungei Buloh. For as long as can be remembered there has been an outpatient clinic carried out at Sungei Buloh for nonleprosy patients from the surrounding area. For several years Dr. Bhojwani considered the possibility of opening a general ward in the leprosarium for nonleprosy patients. On 19 January 1976, a new ward, built three or four years previously just outside the old leprosy patient area but which had been used for leprosy patients, was converted into a general ward for nonleprosy patients. This proved so popular with patients from the surrounding villages and estates that on 1 April 1976 Dr. Waters gave up the original research unit ward. The research unit has "moved up" the ward corri-

dor and now uses the adjoining wards. It almost seems virtually unique for integration to be carried out in this manner even with the two nonleprosy wards on the very edge of the old leprosy area. We hope and believe that by having general medical patients at Sungei Buloh the stigma of leprosy will further decrease in Malaysia.—Dr. M. F. R. Waters

*Dr. M. F. R. Waters leaves Sungei Buloh to study in London.* In September Dr. Waters completed ten years of continuous service as director of the Leprosy Research Unit, and returned to London for approximately eighteen months of intensive sabbatical study at the National Institute for Medical Research, Mill Hill, London NW7 1AA, England.—Dr. M. F. R. Waters

**Mexico.** *Dr. Fernando Latapi announces new addresses for the following organizations in Mexico City:* Centro Dermatologico Pascua; Asociacion Mexicana de Accion Contra La Lepra, A.C.; Dermatologia, Revista Mexicana; Sociedad Mexicana de Dermatologia; XI Congreso Internacional de Lepra (11-18 November 1978). Please direct all correspondence relating to all of the above organizations to the following address: Calle Dr. Vertiz Esq. Avenida Central, Mexico 7, D.F., Mexico. Telephone numbers: 538-70-33 and 538-66-77.—(Notice received 25 November 1976)

*Eleventh International Leprosy Congress, Mexico 1978.* The 11th International Leprosy Congress will be held in Mexico City from Monday through Saturday, 13-18 November 1978.

Dr. J. Convit, the president of the Association has appointed an advisory committee consisting of representative members of the Council, to consider the themes and form of the scientific sessions of the Congress. This committee will meet in January 1977, to study the many suggestions that have been made so that the eleventh Congress may not only provide a forum and platform for the publication of the latest advances in leprosy research, but may give an opportunity to the majority of our members to derive the maximum benefit from this meeting together.

A local organizing committee, under the honorary presidency of Professor F. Latapi and with Dr. Amado Saul as its secretary, is

working out the details of the meetings and the accompanying social program. There is a plethora of tours available for those wishing to take advantage of a visit to Mexico to see something of its rich past and present.

As soon as possible after the meeting of the president's advisory committee in January, an announcement will be made giving information concerning the themes of the scientific sessions, and the program in general, together with indications of the deadlines for the reception of abstracts and full papers. The secretary-general of the Congress will be Dr. S. G. Browne.—S. G. Browne

**Switzerland.** *Tenth International Congress of Chemotherapy, Zurich, Switzerland, September 18-23, 1977.* The Congress will be held under the auspices of the Paul Ehrlich Society for Chemotherapy at the Federal Institute of Technology in Zurich. Attendance and participation are open to all scientists interested in antimicrobial and anticancer chemotherapy. The official language will be English and no simultaneous translation will be provided. The scientific program will consist of symposia and free paper sessions in the field of antimicrobial and anticancer chemotherapy. Ample time will be included for discussions. The Congress is being organized by Prof. W. Siegenthaler, President, and Dr. R. Luthy, Secretary-General. Those interested in receiving further information are requested to correspond directly to: The Administrative Secretariat, Tenth International Congress of Chemotherapy, P.O. Box 182, CH-4013 Basle, Switzerland.—(Notice received September 1976)

**U.S.A.** *A new play on Father Damien presented in Hawaii.* The play was entitled "Damien" starring Terence Knapp as Damien, and written by Aldyth Morris, presented at Kennedy Theater, University of Hawaii, September 11, 1976.

Terence Knapp, a member of the drama and theater department of the University of Hawaii, chose to remember and recreate the life of Father Damien in a one-man play, for which he commissioned Morris to write as part of Hawaii's celebration to the American Bicentennial. Knapp viewed this portrayal of Damien as an "exhilarating challenge" due to what he felt were Damien's forceful personality and psychic energy which developed

from his deep spiritual convictions. The action of the play records the journey of Father Damien's body from Hawaii to Belgium some 46 years after his death (see IJL 41 [1973] 215-219, for an account of the events leading to the return of Damien's body to Belgium). In Knapp's portrayal of Damien, we view a very moving and interesting insight into Damien's recollections of his life in Belgium, Hawaii, and his service among the leprosy patients on the island of Molokai. Interspersed among the various aspects of his life are the frustrations he felt regarding the lack of treatment provided for leprosy patients, and the final frustrations he might have experienced had he known that his body was being removed from Molokai, the island where he had chosen to spend his life. The play was also presented to the leprosy patients of Kalaupapa, Molokai and may possibly be produced in New York in the future. —L. W. Peterson and A. V. Skinsnes

*Dr. Felton Ross appointed medical director of American Leprosy Missions.* Dr. W. Felton Ross, former training director of the All Africa Leprosy and Rehabilitation Training Center in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, has been appointed medical director of American Leprosy Missions.

The announcement was made at ALM by Roger K. Ackley, president of the organization. He said Dr. Ross will take over his new post on August 15, 1976.

Dr. Ross's primary role, Mr. Ackley said, will be to advise and assist the president in all matters involving medical and training programs.

A physician with special training in surgery, rehabilitation, and public health, Dr. Ross is also experienced in urban and rural leprosy control work. He will develop plans for leprosy control in areas of the world where leprosy is a serious public health problem. These plans will stress integrating leprosy treatment into comprehensive community health care.

Other important aspects of his work will be: to evaluate all ALM-supported programs from a medical and training viewpoint and in terms of their relationship to national health services; to produce teaching materials in the field of leprosy control, patient care and rehabilitation; to organize appropriate training courses in strategic areas of the world.

Dr. Ross achieved wide recognition as an expert in leprosy training in his eleven years

as head of the training program of the All Africa Leprosy and Rehabilitation Training Center (ALERT), one of the largest leprosy training institutions in the world.

When ALERT was established in 1965, American Leprosy Missions, one of the five original founders, selected Dr. Ross as training director. In this capacity he developed and supervised a comprehensive program which includes long and short-term courses for physicians and surgeons, rural area supervisors, physical therapists, rehabilitation and orthopedic technicians. The courses cover every area of leprosy management, with special emphasis on assisting trainees to share their skills with others.

Most of ALERT's trainees come from countries throughout Africa, though a substantial number are also from Asia, Europe and North and South America. They are selected and sponsored by national governments, voluntary agencies and the World Health Organization.

Born in Herefordshire, England, Dr. Ross received his medical training at London Hospital. In 1957 he went to Nigeria and served in the Eastern Nigerian Leprosy Service until he was appointed to ALERT in 1965.

In 1960, on a World Health Organization Fellowship, he studied reconstructive leprosy surgery at the Wm. Jay Schieffelin Leprosy Research and Training Institute in Karigiri, India.

Dr. Ross spent a short time in this country in 1963, lecturing at various medical institutions and studying prosthetics and orthotics at the Institute of Rehabilitation, University of Chicago. He was also one of the panel of experts at the annual leprosy seminar in 1963 held at Carville, Louisiana, under the auspices of American Leprosy Missions and the United States Public Health Service.

Dr. Ross remains as an adviser to ALERT's committee on long-range planning on teaching methods of integrating leprosy treatment into national health services. He is a member of the medical committee of the International Federation of Anti-Leprosy Associations and belongs to the International Leprosy Association. He has written numerous pamphlets and booklets on leprosy training and health education.

Dr. Ross is married to the former Una Dickinson of Renfrewshire, Scotland. They have five children, ages six to sixteen. The Rosses plan to make their home in Glen

Ridge, New Jersey.—(From ALM, 6 August 1976)

*Miss Gene Phillips retires from American Leprosy Missions.* After 26 years of service to ALM, Miss Phillips has retired as director of public relations. Her career, which began May 14, 1951, has spanned a period of great progress in leprosy knowledge which saw many advances in scientific research, understanding and public awareness. An Oklahoma native, Miss Phillips has been a leader in the dissemination of factual information concerning leprosy. She is well known in both medical and journalism circles and is author of two books. She is also a fine photographer who has thoroughly documented many significant milestones in the fight against leprosy. She has traveled all over the world in search of stories and pictures with which to promote public knowledge and acceptance of this ancient disease. She plans to continue to live in New York City, and to pursue her interests in writing and photography.

Replacing Miss Phillips on the ALM staff is the Reverend W. Ralph Heller, Jr., newly-named director of information. Mr. Heller is an ordained Lutheran minister with a background in parish ministry, communications and medicine. Prior to his studies at Concordia Theological Seminary in Springfield, Illinois, Mr. Heller was employed as a news reporter-photographer in the radio-television industry. He is also a registered emergency medical technician.

As the director of information, Mr. Heller will provide direction and coordination for a broad spectrum of information services, create materials for a variety of vehicles used regularly in the information program, and provide continuing editorial evaluation of all public information releases issued from ALM.—ALM News Release, 21 October 1976

*Workshop on Mycobacterium leprae held in Baltimore sponsored by PAHO in collaboration with the Johns Hopkins University School of Hygiene and Public Health.* The workshop entitled "The Microbiology of *Mycobacterium leprae*," was held 13-15 October 1976. Attending the workshop were a small group of experts, selected by their particular knowledge in the field of leprosy and who sought to define as clearly as possible where we are today, and to identify problems which yet remain to be solved in order to move in the direction of control or elimination of leprosy as a public health problem.

Those attending were as follows: Dr. L. Barksdale, Dr. J. Convit, Dr. J. Hanks, Dr. W. Meyers, Dr. Q. Myrvik, Dr. C. Reich, Dr. C. Shepard, Dr. C. O. Silva, Dr. O. K. Skinsnes, Dr. J. W. Millar (chairman); and members/staff of the World Health Organization/Pan American Health Organization, Dr. M. L. Brubaker, Dr. C. de Paula Motta, Dr. R. Martinez, Dr. H. Sansarricq, and Mrs. L. Lisann (editor-in-chief).—M. L. Brubaker

*World Leprosy Day for 1977 endorsed by church leaders.* Thirteen church leaders have endorsed World Leprosy Day, 30 January 1977, and have commended this observance to their constituencies. The statement calls on congregations of the various denominations to reaffirm their Christian concern for those with leprosy and to use the designated day as a means of educating the public to the needs of the fight against this disease. This is the 24th year of this annual observance. American Leprosy Missions made up a kit of materials available to congregations to aid them in their local promotional efforts. It is offered free to pastors and their churches.—ALM News Release, 21 October 1976