

## Obituary

Norman Rose Sloan, A.B., M.D., M.P.H.  
1902-1977

Dr. Norman R. Sloan, a specialist on leprosy and former medical director at Kalaupapa Settlement on Molokai, died on Monday, July 25th, after an extended illness.

Dr. Sloan, who was included in the Senior Distinguished Contributors of the "Centennial Festschrift, I" (IJL 41 [1973] 185), had a varied career which saw him work with leprosy patients in the Atlantic and Pacific and, in his youth, work as a medical missionary in Africa.

While serving at Kalaupapa from 1940-1950, he witnessed the impact of the introduction of modern sulfone drugs. In 1976 he said, "The sulfone drugs that revolutionized the treatment of leprosy didn't come into use until 1946—and all we could do for the patients was to treat them symptomatically for complications of the disease."

"I did something like 80 tracheotomies on patients in whom the disease had spread through the mouth to the larynx in the years before we started using sulfones—and only had to do two more in the years afterward."

He joined the Hawaii State Health Department in 1955 and was a key figure in

mass screening for diabetes and active in cancer detection programs. In 1959 he was named a member of the National Advisory Committee for the White House Conference on Aging. He retired from the department in 1966.

His work with leprosy patients began in 1936 in the Virgin Islands. Later in 1951 he was a leprologist for the South Pacific Commission working on treatment and prevention of leprosy in the Trust Territory of the Pacific. Following his retirement he participated in a special study of leprosy on Pingelap Island, a part of the Trust Territory of the Pacific.

Dr. Sloan was born in Philadelphia and graduated from the University of Pennsylvania and Harvard School of Public Health. Early in his career he was a Lutheran medical missionary in Liberia from 1928-1935. He also conducted research activities on the use and effectiveness of long-acting sulfones (DADDS) in treatment and prophylaxis.—*(Excerpted and adapted from HONOLULU ADVERTISER, Saturday, July 30, 1977)*