

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.

Africa. *Dr. and Mrs. Peter Stingle end tour of duty at Lakka Leprosy Center Project.* Dr. and Mrs. Peter Stingle, after three years of very fruitful work in helping to establish the Lakka Leprosy Center Project, have left this service for further study and work. The area under the control of the Lakka Center covers 14,000 square miles with a population of approximately 1.4 million, with an estimated number of 35,000 to 40,000 patients. The survey reports on the project, though too early for final evaluation, and suggests that a more accurate prevalence may be in the area of about 7,000 potential patients.

The work of this unit and other sections of the Sierra Leone National Leprosy Control Program is covered extensively in ACTA LEPROLOGICA, New Series No. 63-64, April-September 1976.—(Summarized from ACTA LEPROLOGICA)

Canada. *Le Secours aux Lépreux (Canada) Inc. creates a "Raoul Follereau Award."* Thanks to a special gesture of generosity of a benefactor and with the kind authorization of Mr. Raoul Follereau this award has been created. The award will be a bronze medal with the appropriate inscriptions on it and also the crest of the Le Secours aux Lépreux organization.

The purpose of the award is to mainly acknowledge the merit of a scientist whose achievement in the field of leprosy research is outstanding and also eventually of a personality whose actions in the humanitarian field should be made known. It may also be awarded to a treatment, rehabilitation or research center. The award shall be offered only once a year, but not necessarily every year. The choice for the award will be the responsibility of an ad hoc committee of Le Secours aux Lépreux (Canada) Inc., who will beforehand conduct a very thorough search. This "Prix Raoul Follereau Award" shall be registered as our social name.—(Adapted from Minutes of SLC meeting, August 9, 1977)

Hong Kong. *Hay Ling Chau facilities utilized for treatment of drug addiction.* Due to the pronounced decline in new cases of leprosy in Hong Kong and the essentially effective control of the disease by chemotherapy, the leprosarium on Hay Ling Chau was closed in 1975. Provision for the care of patients requiring hospitalization was made in the old Lai Chi Kok Infectious Disease Hospital and the new Princess Margaret Hospital.

The Hong Kong Government made a generous financial settlement with the Leprosy Mission, Hong Kong Auxiliary, for its past investment in Hay Ling Chau. These funds have been available for other leprosy work.

It is of interest that the facilities on Hay Ling Chau have been put to good use, after some judicious necessary remodeling, for the treatment of drug addiction among prisoners presenting low security risk. A well-conceived program of work, discipline and counseling begins on admission. The subjects are discharged after variable periods on the basis of their performance and is contingent on jobs being found for them. Their discharge is conditional on their performance in society. Counseling continues and they may be brought back to Hay Ling Chau for further help if this is judged necessary. The program was in effect before Hay Ling Chau was taken over by the Government and it is said that at three years the recidivism rate is about 50%. Hay Ling Chau now provides treatment, healthy living and training for about 1,000 inmates in contrast to the maximum of about 540 leprosy patients previously housed and work is in hand for further expansion of the facility. The Leprosy Mission and the Hong Kong Government are to be congratulated for together working out the transfer which continues to employ the facility for the help of society's disadvantaged persons in a program compatible with the humanitarian motivations of those many who first contributed toward the rehabilitation of this barren island.—O. K. Skinsnes

India. "Workshop on Leprosy" held on 22 June at Acworth Leprosy Hospital. The fourth leprosy workshop was held under the auspices of Acworth Leprosy Hospital Society for Research, Rehabilitation and Education in Leprosy at the hospital in Wadala, Bombay. Dr. P. Kapoor, Joint Director, Health Services (Leprosy), Maharashtra State, conducted the workshop.

The workshop was presented by the Acworth Leprosy Hospital group under the following headings: Electrodermatological Studies in Leprosy, Recording of Compound Nerve Action Potentials in Sensory Nerves, A Follow-Up of Private School-Detected Leprosy Cases in Bombay, Associated Cases in the Families of Schoolchildren with Leprosy, and Irregularity of Dapsone Intake in Infectious Leprosy Patients Attending an Urban Treatment Center—Its Magnitude and Causes.—(Summarized from Workshop Proceedings submitted by S. S. Naik)

Mexico. General information and scientific program of XI International Leprosy Congress.

Site of Congress. Congress Building of the National Medical Center.

Inaugural Session. Monday, 13 November at 9 a.m.

Schedule of Sessions. Monday to Friday from 9-13 and 15-18 hours.

Close Session. Saturday 18 at 11 a.m.

Languages. Spanish, English and French. Simultaneous translation in the main scientific sessions.

Social Program. There is being prepared an interesting social and cultural program for the congress participants and companions, consisting of an Inaugural cocktail, visits to museums and places of historical interest and typical of Mexico City.

Excursions before and after the Congress. These will include visits to archeological regions such as Chichen Itza, Uxmal, Palenque, Mitla, Monte Alban. Colonial cities like Guanajuato, San Miguel Allende, Taxco, Oaxaca and resorts like Acapulco, Puerto Vallarta and Cancun.

Hotels. Rooms of the first class and others have been reserved in various hotels. Application forms for reservations for hotels and excursions should be sent to the official travel agency: Mundus Tours (ICCA), Paseo de la Reforma 379, 4th Floor, Mexico 5, D.F.

Date of our next publication. October 1977. Preliminary Program with detailed information of all aspects of the Congress and application forms for the Congress itself, hotels and excursions.

Scientific Program

1. *Workshops.* Chairmen and Members have been named to participate in Workshops on the following themes: Experimental Leprosy; Microbiology; Immunology; Experimental Chemotherapy; Epidemiology and Control (including field therapy) and Social Aspects. The respective Chairmen will inform the Members of their Workshop on which day they will meet (November 9, 10 and 11) before the opening day of the Congress. Reports of these Workshops will be presented to participants when they register.

2. *Organization of Congress Sessions.* After the first Plenary Session (on Epidemiology and Control), simultaneous scientific sessions will be organized under the following themes: Experimental Leprosy; Clinical Aspects; Microbiology; Immunology; Social Aspects; Experimental Chemotherapy; Therapy; Rehabilitation and Clinico-Pathological Aspects (including nerve damage). The main presentations at each Session will be made by participants who have already been informed by the Chairmen of the Session at which their paper will be presented.

3. *Free Communications.* A very limited number of papers (of 10 minutes' duration) on afore-mentioned themes will be accepted for reading at each of the Scientific Sessions.

4. *Poster Presentations.* It will be an innovation at the Congress.

5. *Clinical Session.* Patients with Lucio leprosy will be shown at the Pascua Dermatological Centre.

6. *Abstracts.* All abstracts of papers, from intending participants only, should be submitted before 28 February 1978 to Dr. S. G. Browne, 57a Wimpole Street, London W1M 7DF, England. Four copies of the abstract, not exceeding 200 words in length, in one (or more) of the official languages of the Congress, and indicating the session at which the paper would be relevant, should be submitted.

No participant may figure as the principal author of more than one paper.

U.S.A. *American Leprosy Missions announces that the 25th annual observance of World Leprosy Day will be on Sunday, January 29, 1978.* A proclamation by President Jimmy Carter will highlight this day for the United States.

Observed in over 100 countries, the concept of a World Leprosy Day was originated in 1953 by Mr. Raoul Follereau, a Frenchman who has devoted his life to ceaseless effort on behalf of leprosy patients. World Leprosy Day is observed by governments, voluntary agencies, churches, mission societies, and individuals to bring the needs of leprosy patients into focus. In order to assist American churches in the observance of World Leprosy Day on January 29, 1978 ALM has prepared a special kit of materials about leprosy and World Leprosy Day. This kit is available free from American Leprosy Missions, 1262 Broad Street, Bloomfield, N.J. 07003.—ALM Information Release, 23 September 1977.

Carville, 19th Annual International Seminar on Leprosy to be held April 2-8, 1978, and co-sponsored by American Leprosy Missions, Inc., and the United States Public Health Service.

PURPOSE—To provide an up-to-date review of clinical leprology and leprosy control.

ELIGIBILITY—The seminar is open to physicians, nurses and other paramedicals planning to work or already at work in countries where leprosy is endemic.

SCHEDULE—

- April 2 ... arrive at Carville
- April 3 ... introduction to clinical leprology
- April 4-5 .. core seminar on clinical leprology
- April 6-8 .. application of clinical technics in the field and individualized instruction
- April 8 ... noon, depart

PROGRAM—Specific seminar objectives will be developed as soon as participants register, focusing on their particular requirements. If necessary, participants will be grouped to facilitate learning, but ample opportunities for mixed professional groups and exchanges will be given.

COST—Your only cost is transportation to New Orleans and return. Room and meals are provided without charge. There are no registration or other fees.

TRANSPORT—Participants will be met at the New Orleans International Airport at 7 p.m. on Sunday, April 2, and will be returned to the airport on Saturday, April 8, by 3 p.m.

REGISTRATION—Write for application form and return no later than February 1, 1978. You will be notified of acceptance by March 1. Please write to Dr. Felton Ross, for inquiries and applications, at ALM, 1262 Broad Street, Bloomfield, New Jersey 07003.

Dr. Howard Goodman appointed as director of the Johns Hopkins University Tropical Medicine Center. The Johns Hopkins University/Leonard Wood Memorial relationship has long been a source of much significant research in leprosy. Thus the appointment of Dr. Howard Goodman, currently director of WHO's global program of research, to the Tropical Medicine Center is of significance to the leprosy program. He will arrive this fall and will coordinate a broad range of research and training activities targeted on tropical disease. The Tropical Medicine Center is a university-wide effort, based at the School of Hygiene and Public Health, and drawing upon the expertise of many disciplines, including parasitology, medical entomology, epidemiology, immunology, clinical medicine, pathology, pharmacology, microbiology, and cell and molecular biology as well as ecology, engineering, economics, socio-anthropology, and public health administration. Since leprosy involves virtually all of these areas of study it may be hoped that work on this disease may be strengthened by its possible role as a unifying disease model.—(Summarized from "In Brief," Summer 1977, pp 1, 5)

The Victor Heiser Awards for Research in Leprosy available. The following awards are available: Postdoctoral Research Fellowships with up to two years of support provided at stipend levels between \$10,000 and \$14,000 per annum; Visiting Research Awards with per diem and travel support provided for up to six months of collaborative research with an appropriate laboratory or clinical facility; Research Grants, not exceeding \$10,000 and awarded to those laboratories involved in leprosy research.

The deadline for receipt of all applications is February 1, 1978. Decisions of the Scientific Advisory Committee will be announced

by May 1, 1978 and all awards must be activated by December 31, 1978.

For further instructions and application please write to: Ms. C. R. Stanwood, Direc-

tor, Heiser Fellowship Program for Research in Leprosy, 1230 York Avenue, New York, New York 10021, USA.—C. R. Stanwood