

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.

Egypt. *The Cairo Second International Leprosy and Tropical Dermatology Congress*, which was held in Cairo on 20-21 March 1978, attracted about 300 participants from eight Near East countries and four from outside the Arab world. The joint organizers were Dr. S. G. Browne (London) and Professor M. El Zawahry (Cairo).

Most of the papers on leprosy were presented by dermatologists working in one of the university hospitals in Egypt. They were of high order and gave evidence of the continuing interest of dermatologists of all degrees of seniority in one of the intractable problems of this part of the world. Among the papers on tropical dermatology, those on cutaneous leishmaniasis and cutaneous bilharzia attracted considerable attention.

The Congress followed a Memorial Congress held to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the founding of the Kasr el Aini School of Medicine, the oldest and most prestigious of Egypt's medical schools.—S. G. Browne

Ethiopia. *Twelfth Annual General Meeting of ALERT.* The Twelfth Annual General Meeting of the members of ALERT was held at the training center in Addis Ababa on Friday, 17 March 1978, following an ordinary meeting of the Board of Directors of ALERT on Thursday, 16 March 1978, to which delegates from Member Organizations were invited. The delegates were assembled to review the achievements of ALERT in the past year and to plan for the future. The Annual General Meeting was chaired by Dr. Teferra Wonde, Minister of Health and President of ALERT.

In his opening address the President gave an outline of the political situation and the current situation and development in the country. He also explained about the great damage done by the invading troops and stated that the development of health services in Ethiopia should be viewed and assessed against the background of the present realities in the country. Dr. Teferra also out-

lined some of the contributions that ALERT has provided so far and said that the Ministry of Health was prepared to cooperate in all fields that would enhance medical development.

With regard to the Ministry's policy on the integration of specialized services in general, he said that the basic health services are in the progress of implementation, particularly in the field of leprosy and malaria.

The Annual Report covering the activities during the year 1977 was presented by the executive director, and the directors of the various departments of ALERT and AHRI introduced their respective sections in the Annual Report.

The audited Financial Report covering the year 1977 was presented and approved by the Assembly and the 1978 budget recurrent and capital amounting to 2,071,593 Birr was approved.

Dr. Teferra Wonde, Minister of Health, was re-elected as president and Dr. Duri Mohammed, the president of Addis Ababa University and Dr. Widad Kidane Mariam were elected vice-presidents. Dr. Mesfin Demisse was elected secretary of the AGM. All for a period of two years.

An important conference on leprosy training in Africa will be held on 12-14 March 1979, in connection with the 13th Annual General Meeting of ALERT. A rural area supervisors' course was held for 11 weeks beginning on 23 January and attended by 24 participants. The results of the course were highly satisfactory with all participants stating that they had met the main instructional objective: to enable those attending the course to be able to efficiently supervise a leprosy control program in a rural area, especially as part of a coordinated (i.e., integrated) approach to the overall health needs of a rural population.—(Adapted from Onni Niskanen's report)

France. *International Year for Disabled Persons, 1981.* Just as they are all more or less directly concerned with the Internation-

al Year of the Child (1979), in the same way governments and voluntary agencies connected with leprosy programs throughout the world will wish to share in the activities that will be organized during the year 1981—designated by the United Nations as the International Year for Disabled Persons. While the statutory bodies of the United Nations will naturally assume the major role in the central organization of action to be taken at government level, much of the success of the local activities in the various countries will depend upon the initiative and enthusiasm of members of voluntary agencies. It is here that the antileprosy associations, especially those working together under the aegis of ILEP, will be able to offer their expert knowledge of the local situation concerning those whose handicap is due to leprosy, and to help organize national activities in favor of the handicapped. The social discrimination and disabilities under which leprosy victims still suffer should not be lost sight of in any action organized for this purpose.

The Council of World Organizations Interested in the Handicapped has been asked, through its executive committee, to prepare a protocol for the voluntary agencies whose activities it represents. The International Leprosy Association is one of the founder-members of the Council, and its Secretary-Treasurer, Dr. S. G. Browne, represents the Association both on the Council and on the executive committee. At its meeting in Paris on 3 April 1978, the executive committee made suggestions for a draft protocol to be submitted to the United Nations, stressing the following points: the need to organize activities appropriate to the local situation in different countries; the prevention of deforming conditions and diseases (leprosy is obviously an example of these); the provision of services in rural areas; the importance of reducing the stigma still attached to physical handicaps (especially, we might add, those due to neglected leprosy); the need for suitable teaching materials for medical students, doctors, auxiliary medical workers and all engaged in any way with the care of those suffering from some kind of physical or mental disability.—S. G. Browne

India. *Acworth Leprosy Hospital Society for Research, Rehabilitation and Education in Leprosy holds fifth "Workshop on Leprosy."* The workshop, held on 23 November

1977, mainly consisted of the presentation and discussion of the five following papers: 1) "Diagnosis of Early Leprosy with Reference to Histopathological Features," by R. Ganapati and R. G. Chulawala; 2) "Very Early Nonlepromatous Leprosy-Histochemistry and Electron Microscopy of Nerves," by D. K. Dastur, G. L. Porwal and J. S. Shah; 3) "Long Treated Lepromatous Leprosy-Histochemistry and Electron Microscopy of Muscles and Histochemistry of Nerves," by D. K. Dastur, S. M. Daver, G. L. Porwal and C. R. Revankar; 4) "Evolution of Culture Media for Cultivation of *M. leprae* in vitro," by C. V. Bapat; and 5) "Use of ICRC Bacilli as Vaccine Against *M. leprae* in Mouse Foot Pad," by K. S. Pradhan, M. B. Bhide and C. V. Bapat.—(From Proceedings of Workshop on Leprosy)

Antileprosy Week Celebrations in India. The Gandhi Memorial Leprosy Foundation celebrated this special week in all of its centers all over the country. On 30 January a Silver Jubilee commemoration volume entitled "Window on Leprosy" containing articles by eminent leprosy workers of the world published by the Foundation, was released by the Vice-President of India, Shri B. D. Jatti.

The RRE Society of Acworth Leprosy Hospital in Bombay held various ceremonies and lectures distributing cash prizes to winners on essay competitions on leprosy at the medical undergraduate level.

In Poona, the Poona District Leprosy Committee celebrated by stressing health education of the community. Over 160 programs were organized and attended by persons at all levels of involvement in the community.

Programs and celebrations were also held by the institution Rajendra Sevashram Anugrahanagar, the Sreemanta Sankar Mission and the Hind Kusht Nivaran Sangh of the Adilabad District.—(Adapted from NLO Newsletter 6 [1978] 13-14)

Pakistan. *Dr. Ruth Pfau honored.* Dr. Ruth Pfau's work for leprosy sufferers in Pakistan, based on the Marie Adelaide Leprosy Centre in Karachi, and reaching out to the whole country, has recently received well-merited recognition. She has been invested with the Commanders Cross Order of Merit—the highest award granted to civilians—by the

Federal Republic of Germany. The Government of Pakistan has also decorated her with its highest civilian award "HILAL-i-IMTIAZ" (the Crescent of Achievements).

We add our own congratulations to those that Dr. Pfau has already received.—S. G. Browne

U.S.A. *An English-Spanish guide for medical personnel available.* The University of New Mexico Press is pleased to announce the May 1978 publication of the third edition of *¿Qué Pasó? An English-Spanish Guide for Medical Personnel* by Martin P. Kantrowitz, M.D., Antonio Mondragón, and William Lord Coleman (\$2.95 paper).

Indispensable to medical care delivery personnel and students in health-related fields, *¿Qué Pasó?* will also be useful to the traveler in any Spanish-speaking country.

In order to treat a patient who comes into the emergency room, a clinic, or a physician's office, the doctor has to be able to talk with the patient. In cities from New York to Los Angeles, where Spanish speakers constitute a growing percentage of the population, and in New Mexico, where 50% of the population is Spanish-speaking, this initial communication can be difficult, sometimes even impossible. *¿Qué Pasó?* guides non-Spanish-speaking medical personnel through all the common workups with their standard questions and answers, so that they can communicate with their Spanish-speaking patients. In addition to its size (5½" × 8½"), which allows medical personnel to keep it handy in their coat pockets, its cover is water resistant.

The first two editions of *¿Qué Pasó?*, privately published by the authors, sold out locally within two years of publication. This third edition has been revised on the basis of day-to-day clinical use. All previously presented workups have been reviewed and,

where necessary, modified and expanded. In addition, workups on family planning, overdose/poisoning, and the coma patient have been added. The vocabulary section has been substantially expanded to include more of the words commonly used in clinical practice. Alternative Spanish words, and space to write in local expressions, have also been included.

Martin P. Kantrowitz, who received his M.D. from the University of Louisville School of Medicine in 1969, is assistant professor in the Department of Family, Community, and Emergency Medicine at the University of New Mexico School of Medicine. He is also currently director of a National Health Service Corps Clinical Support Program serving rural New Mexico and southern Colorado.

William Lord Coleman, who received his B.A. from the University of the Americas in Mexico City, is a junior at the University of New Mexico School of Medicine. He previously spent two years as a volunteer in the Bernalillo County Medical Center (Albuquerque) emergency room interpreting for Spanish-speaking patients, and plans to work in the public sector of health care.

Antonio Mondragón, a native of New Mexico, is currently coordinator of Chicano Student Services at the University of New Mexico.

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The STAR now has complete index available. Thanks to Sister Laura Stricker, The STAR now has available to its readers a complete index dating from issues back to 1941. Sister Laura has been working on the 83-page reference for about two years. The index is available from Xerox Microfilms.—(From The STAR 37, No. 3 [1978] 13)