

Report of the Leonard Wood Memorial Conference on Leprosy *

Held in Manila, Philippine Islands, January 9 to 23, 1931

Foreword

It has long been evident to those engaged in the study and control of leprosy, that the existing terminology and classification of the subject permitted of widely divergent interpretations. This defect had become a handicap of such degree, in correlating the views and results of different leprologists, that an opportunity for discussion and attempted correction of some of the difficulties seemed to be an imperative requirement for progress.

During the past year both the Leonard Wood Memorial for the Eradication of Leprosy and the Leprosy Commission of the League of Nations took cognizance of the situation, and became interested in holding a round-table conference, in the Far East, and the trustees of the Memorial subsequently made a financial allotment to effect this purpose in so far as it was practicable. It was decided that the Conference should take place in Manila immediately after the meeting of the Leprosy Commission, which was held in Bangkok in December 1930.

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The number of leprologists invited to the Conference was necessarily limited since it was intended that the proceedings should be of the nature of informal discussions. It seemed especially desirable that those individuals who are members of the Leprosy Commission of the League of Nations, or their representatives, should attend because of their previous studies of the subject, and of their broad knowledge of the conditions prevailing in the widely scattered areas which are affected. Invitations were extended to a number of others who were located in the Far East, and whose experience was known to include unique aspects.

The Conference convened at Manila, January 9, 1931, and was in session until January 23, 1931. Those who attended are as follows:

Dr. Et. Burnet, Secretary, Leprosy Commission, League of Nations
Dr. R. G. Cochrane, Secretary, British Empire Leprosy Relief Association
Dr. H. I. Cole, Chief Chemist, Culion Leper Colony
Dr. J. Fajardo, Director of Health, Philippine Health Service

Maj.-Gen. J. D. Graham, I.M.S., Public Health Commissioner, Government of India

Dr. G. Gushue-Taylor, Superintendent, Mackay Memorial Hospital, Taihoku, Formosa

Dr. V. G. Heiser, Director for the Far East, Rockefeller Foundation

Dr. Lee S. Huizenga, Superintendent, Mission Hospital, Jukao, Ku, China

Dr. A. N. Kingsbury, Director, Research Institute, Kuala Lumpur, Federated Malay States

Capt. P. H. J. Lampe, Director of Health, Dutch Guiana

Dr. C. B. Lara, Chief Physician, Culion Leper Colony

Dr. J. Lowe, Medical Superintendent, Dichpalli Leprosy Hospital, India

Dr. J. L. Maxwell, Henry Lester Institute of Medical Research, Shanghai

Dr. E. Muir, Leprosy Research Worker, Calcutta School of Tropical Medicine

Dr. E. E. Neff, Superintendent, Mogokai Central Leper Hospital, Fiji

Prof. Dr. B. Nocht, President, Leprosy Commission, League of Nations

Dr. M. Ota, Tohoku Imperial University, Japan

Dr. J. N. Rodriguez, Supervisor of Leprosy-Treatment Stations, Philippine Health Service

Dr. J. C. Tull, Government Pathologist, Singapore

Dr. H. W. Wade, Chief Pathologist, Culion Leper Colony; and Medical Director, Leonard Wood Memorial

Dr. N. E. Wayson, Director, United States Leprosy Investigation Station, Hawaii

Drs. LeRoy-Desbarres and H. Joyeux, of French Indo-China, also participated in the first sessions.

The Conference was organized at the first meeting, and the agenda for consideration was agreed upon promptly thereafter. The subject matter was prepared for the most part in committee, presented to the plenary sessions, and final decisions reached in these. January 14, the members embarked on a journey of inspection of regional treatment stations and leprosaria at Cebu, Zamboanga, and Iloilo, and of the Culion Leper Colony. The sessions were continued with but brief intermissions

throughout the tour, both on the steamer and at ports visited.

The discussions were frank and detailed, and were in most instances extended to a point of reconciliation of viewpoints and common agreement. The following report is that decided upon by the Conference in plenary session.

—H. H. Wade

Chairman of the Conference

—G. Gushue-Taylor

Secretary

Contents

Foreword

Discussions and Conclusions

I. International Viewpoint

Study tours; transfer of workers; leprosy digest, or annuaire

II. Uniformity of Methods and Terms

1. Designation of cases of leprosy
Suspected; clinical; incipient; infectious; burned-out; arrested with deformity; leper; case of leprosy

2. Designation of lesions
Macular; acroteric; skin changes; definitions; leprotic; leproma; ulcers; infiltration; nodule; papule; macule

3. The microorganism
Nomenclature; toxins

4. Clinical classification of cases
Primary classification; proposed classification of types of leprosy; main types; subtypes

5. Administrative classification of cases
Open; closed

6. Lepra reactions

7. Early diagnosis of leprosy

8. Methods of examination
Clinical; bacteriological

9. Treatment of leprosy
General measures; special measures; standardization and appraisal of treatment; organization of treatment

10. Evaluation of progress
Active cases; quiescent cases; arrested cases; cure; relative cure; negative

11. Follow-up of patients

12. Study of contacts
13. Standardization of records
- III. Prophylaxis
- IV. Research
 1. Epidemiology
 2. Clinical studies and therapeutic experimentation
 3. Diet
 4. Etiology and pathogenesis
 5. Biochemistry
 6. Pharmacology
- Appendices
 - I. Details of Examination
 - II. Method of Treatment by Intradermal Injection
 - III. Treatment of Leprosy Reaction
 - IV. Manufacture of Mixed Ethyl Esters of Hydnocarpus-group Oils
 - V. Epidemiological Surveys

The International Leprosy Association*

It was realized that this Conference afforded an exceptional opportunity to consider the question of a permanent international organization of those engaged in activities concerning leprosy and of others interested in such work. It has long been felt that such a body would serve a useful purpose in stimulating greater interest in the problem and in efforts to obtain more effective results.

Accordingly, information was laid before the Conference concerning two movements to this end. These were (1) a discussion begun in 1922–23 among certain leprologists, which resulted in a decision to organize a society as soon as there should seem to be a possibility of obtaining funds to support a periodical; and (2) a separate movement started in 1925–26 to form an organization to be called "Société Internationale de Leprologie." The latter has unfortunately not become active. The Conference was also advised that the Leonard Wood Memorial for the Eradication of Leprosy would consider sympathetically a request for a subsidy to aid such a plan as the Conference might indorse.

After a thorough discussion of the matter it was unanimously decided that the exist-

ing circumstances made it advisable to inaugurate a movement in which due consideration should be given the plans of those previously interested in the matter and every effort made to secure their cooperation. A proposed constitution and by-laws, comprising features of the earlier plans, were studied by the Conference. Upon reaching agreement on these, the members of the Conference joined unanimously in forming the Association. A meeting of the Association was then held; the constitution and by-laws, subject to modification when organization of the Association has been completed, were adopted, and temporary officers were elected.

The name of the organization is THE INTERNATIONAL LEPROSY ASSOCIATION (Association Internationale de la Lèpre).

The purposes are: "To encourage and facilitate mutual acquaintance and collaboration between persons of all nationalities concerned in leprosy work and the coordination of their efforts; to facilitate the dissemination of knowledge of leprosy and its control; and in any other practicable manner to aid in the antileprosy campaign throughout the world; and to this end to publish a scientific journal of leprosy. It shall endeavor to cooperate with any other institution or organization dealing with leprosy work."

For purposes of expediency provision is made for a Western Section and an Eastern Section; a General Council to be in charge of the general affairs of the association, and Section Councils to be in charge of sectional affairs.

Membership may be of two classes. "Regular membership" is open to all persons with recognized medical or other scientific qualifications, who are actively engaged in connection with the study, treatment, or control of leprosy, or who have been so engaged. "Associate membership" is open to all other persons connected with or especially interested in leprosy.

The chief activities anticipated are those of the holding of meetings and the publishing of a scientific periodical on leprosy. When found desirable and practicable, it is intended that general leprosy congresses shall be convened. It is believed that the sections can hold meetings more frequent-

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ly, possibly in connection with other medical gatherings.

The proposed periodical, to be called THE INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF LEPROSY, will contain, besides suitable original articles, reprintings of important papers that have appeared elsewhere, abstracts, news items, and possibly correspondence and other appropriate material. The editorial control of the Journal will be carried out by a board consisting of an Editor and two Associate Editors, to be chosen by the General Council.

It was agreed that, for some time, it would probably be impossible to finance a satisfactory journal solely from membership fees and subscriptions. Since there was reason to believe that the Leonard Wood Memorial would consider sympathetically a request for a subsidy for this

purpose, a resolution was passed requesting such aid for a period of five years. If this is granted, it is intended that publication will commence early in 1932.

The temporary general council elected is: President, Dr. Victor G. Heiser; Vice President, Western Section, Prof. Carlos Chagas; Vice President, Eastern Section, Dr. E. Muir; Secretary, Dr. R. G. Cochrane; Treasurer, Dr. Wm. H. Brown; General Councillors, Prof. Nagayo, Sir Leonard Rogers, Dr. Etienne Burnet, and Prof. de Langen. The council made the following appointments: Editor (and general councillor *ex officio*), Dr. H. W. Wade; Associate Editors, Dr. H. P. Lie and Dr. James L. Maxwell. Elections and appointments of persons not at the meeting are subject to their acceptance.