

Notes Concerning the Formation of the International Leprosy Association

The following comments have been solicited because I have been informed that I am one of the last survivors among the founders of the International Leprosy Association. This makes me feel rather old. The events occurred half a century and more in the past. We hope they will be of interest and have relevance to our readers. Reviewing them has freshened in my mind the privileges and friendships of past years.

The proposal to form the ILA was initiated by Dr. H. W. Wade, who had been for some years working toward the formulation of such an organization. A number of us realized that the subject of leprosy was passing from a state of ignorance to a position of greater knowledge. With the increasing popularity of the subject, a new era was dawning. If I am permitted some personal remarks and reminiscences, I shall share with you some of my part in the beginnings of the ILA.

In 1924, I graduated from Glasgow University and finished my degree course at St. Bartholomew's Hospital in London. My career commenced in India, working as a

medical missionary under the Mission to Lepers, now The Leprosy Mission. It is a point of interest that when in medical school I had a vivid dream that I discovered a cure for leprosy. This probably influenced my choice of leprosy as a lifetime work. When my father, Dr. Thomas Cochrane, a missionary to China with the London Mission and founder of the Peking Union Medical College, mentioned to me that the then Mission to Lepers wanted a doctor, I unhesitatingly offered myself. My first station was Purulia, Bihar, now West Bengal, in north India. I received preliminary training by one who became the doyen of leprosy workers, Dr. Ernest Muir, at the School of Tropical Medicine, Calcutta.

Returning to England in 1927, I obtained the Membership of the Royal College of Physicians, London, and proceeded to a Doctorate of Medicine in 1928 from Glasgow. The year 1927 also marked the beginning of my connection with the British Empire Leprosy Relief Association (BELRA, now LEPRO). For the next approximately ten years I travelled extensively on their



FIG. 1. After the Leonard Wood Memorial Conference in Manila, Philippines, some of the Conference members visited Eversley Childs Treatment Station, Cebu. *Left to right* (on the front porch of the Administration Building): Maj. Gen. J. D. Graham; Dr. N. E. Wayson; Dr. R. G. Cochrane; Dr. E. Muir; Dr. H. W. Wade; Dr. J. Fajardo; Dr. E. E. Neff; Dr. H. I. Cole; Dr. V. G. Heiser; Dr. J. N. Rodriguez; and Dr. J. C. Tull. (This photo and legend were originally published as part of Dr. Esmond R. Long's History of the Leonard Wood Memorial [American Leprosy Foundation] 1928 to 1967. *Int. J. Lepr.* 35 [1967] 245.)



FIG. 2.



FIG. 3.



FIG. 4.



FIG. 5.



FIG. 6.



FIG. 7.



FIG. 8.



FIG. 9.

behalf and visited many of the leprosy treatment centers widely scattered around the world. This gave me the unique opportunity of personal acquaintance with many of the professionals engaged in the treatment of leprosy and brought the realization that I provided some connection between them because of my travels. Those of you who have visited or have received visitors have experienced the benefits, for the giving and receiving go in both directions. The visit of a colleague afforded stimulation and pleasure to many in remote places. This is still true today; how much more so a half century ago. This was the beginning of many close friendships and also played a part in the origin of the International Leprosy Association.

The following "Association News" (Int. J. Lepr. 1 [1933] 94-96) contains some interesting information:

International Leprosy Association
Present Status of the Organization of the
Association

The nucleus of the International Leprosy Association was formed by the members of the Leonard Wood Memorial Conference in Manila in January 1931. The proposal to form the association was initiated by Dr. H. W. Wade, who has been for some years past working toward the formulation of such an organization.

The purposes of the International Leprosy Association are to encourage and facilitate mutual acquaintance between persons of all nationalities who are concerned in leprosy work and the co-ordination of their efforts; to facilitate the dissemination of knowledge of leprosy and its control; to aid in any other practical manner the anti-leprosy campaign throughout the world; and to this end to publish a scientific journal of leprosy.

The general body of the association is divided for appropriate particular purposes into two regional bodies, the Western and Eastern Sections. The Western Section comprises the members located in Europe, Africa, and the Americas; the Eastern Section, those located in Asia and Oceania.

Memberships are *regular*, "limited to persons with recognized medical degree, and those with other scientific qualifications who are, or have been, actively con-

nected with leprosy work," and *associate*, open to all other interested persons. Membership dues are one guinea (British currency) a year. Each member receives the INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF LEPROSY for the period for which he has paid his membership dues.

The organizing group elected temporary general officers and councillors to serve as such until the association could be put on a permanent basis and officers regularly elected by the future membership-at-large. Dr. Victor G. Heiser agreed to serve as president and Dr. Robert G. Cochrane as general-secretary. A constitution and by-laws were tentatively adopted, subject to later action by the general membership.

During the year the secretary general prepared an extensive list of persons who might be interested in joining the association. These were circularized twice, once from London and once from New York. By the end of January 1932—a year from the time of formation—well over three hundred applications for membership had been received.

A meeting of the (temporary) general council was held in London in February 1932. Action was taken on various matters within the scope of the authority of the council. The temporary editorial board of the INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF LEPROSY was reappointed, which is as follows: Dr. H. W. Wade, Cullion, P.I., editor; Drs. James L. Maxwell, Shanghai, China, and H. P. Lie, Bergen, Norway, associate editors. The editorial board has selected Dr. C. B. Lara, P.I., to be assistant editor.

After considering the experiences of the previous year and the suggestions received, a number of changes in the constitution and by-laws were adopted for proposal to the membership. Nominations of officers and councillors for the general organization and the sections were also adopted. The proposed changes in constitution and by-laws and the nominations were then submitted by mail to all those who had made application for membership in the association. In due course the president will declare action taken on the basis of the votes received.

The officers and councillors nominated for a period of five years (as from January 1, 1932) are as follows:

I. FOR THE GENERAL COUNCIL

General Officers

President—Dr. V. G. Heiser, New York City

Vice-Presidents—Chairmen of Eastern and Western Sections, *ex-officio*

General Secretary-Treasurer—Dr. R. G. Cochrane, London

General Councillors

Sir Leonard Rogers, London

Dr. E. Burnet, League of Nations, Geneva

Dr. C. de Langen, Batavia, Netherlands East Indies

Dr. M. Ota, Sendai, Japan

Secretary-Treasurers of Sections, and the Editor of the JOURNAL, *ex-officio*

II. SECTION COUNCILS

1. *Western Section*

Chairman—Dr. E. Marchoux, Paris

Vice-Chairman—Dr. H. C. de Souza Araujo, Rio de Janeiro

Secretary-Treasurer—Dr. H. P. Lie, Bergen, Norway (to be *ex-officio* an Associate Editor of the JOURNAL and member of the General Council)

Councillors—Dr. Enrique P. Fianza, Buenos Aires; Prof. Dr. B. Nocht, Hamburg; Dr. N. E. Wayson, Honolulu, Hawaii; Dr. B. Moiser, Ngomahuru, Southern Rhodesia

2. *Eastern Section*

Chairman—Dr. E. Muir, Calcutta

Vice-Chairman—Dr. K. Mitsuda, Nagashima, Japan

Secretary-Treasurer—Dr. James L. Maxwell, Shanghai. (to be *ex-officio* an Associate Editor of the JOURNAL and member of the General Council)

Councillors—Dr. J. Lowe, Calcutta, India; Dr. Wu-Lien-Teh, Shanghai, China; Dr. J. N. Rodriguez, Cebu, P.I.; Dr. Gushue-Taylor, Taihoku, Formosa

The constitution and by-laws, as revised

by the proposals submitted by the General Council, appears in full in this issue of the JOURNAL for the information of members and others interested.

At the time of the Council meeting the total number of members in the association was nearly 340. This response, larger than had been expected previous to the appearance of the JOURNAL, is most encouraging to those upon whom will fall the burden of the task of conducting the association and producing its publication. It is anticipated that a considerable number of non-membership subscriptions to the JOURNAL will be received now that the publication has been started.

The general council appeals to all members to help in increasing the influence of the association, as only by the concerted help of all can the council hope completely to fulfill its duties and make a worthy contribution toward advancement of knowledge and effort in the field of leprosy.

—Robert G. Cochrane

General Secretary

In closing I submit photographs (Figs. 1–9) of the Leonard Wood Memorial Conference, which was held in Manila in January 1931. I regret that all of the individuals cannot be positively identified. It has been my great pleasure and privilege to attend all the international congresses which were held thereafter until the most recent one. May I take this opportunity to express appreciation to all who sent greetings to me from the XI International Leprosy Congress in Mexico City and for the portfolio and papers. I would assure all my many friends of my good wishes and interest in the continuance of the work. As I look at the official photograph of the XI Congress brought to me by my son, Ian, the enormous number of persons attending is noted. It is obvious that the formation of the ILA was an idea whose time had come.

—R. G. Cochrane