

OBITUARIES

PROFESSOR ÉDOUARD JEANSELME

Professor Édouard Jeanselme, who died on April 9, 1935, was clinical professor of cutaneous and syphilitic diseases of the Faculty of Medicine of Paris, at the Hôpital Saint-Louis. He began to concern himself with leprosy in 1893, and from 1896 gave each year a series of lectures on the subject. In 1897 he represented France at

the first (Berlin) leprosy conference; in 1899-1900 he was sent to Indochina on an official mission to study the disease leprosy there; in 1923 he was president of the third (Strasbourg) conference. In France he was prominent in official considerations of leprosy and participated prominently in three leprosy commissions, those of the Académie de Médecine, the Société de Pathologie exotique, and the Ministère des Colonies.

His studies have borne on the transmission of the disease in temperate climates (he reported numerous cases observed in France), on leprous rhinitis (his findings led to the practice of examining the nasal mucosa), on ocular involvement (in collaboration with V. Morax), on leprous dyschromias, and among other things especially on the functional disturbances and the lesions of the spinal cord and peripheral nerves, and the relation with syringomyelia and Morvan's panaris. He wrote the articles on leprosy in the *Manual de Médecine* of Debove and Achard and in the *Pratique Dermatologique*, and at the end of his career, in 1934, there appeared his treatise *La Lèpre*, which bears the mark of his personal work on the subject. Though of advanced age, he continued his active work to the end, spending most of his days at the Hôpital Saint-Louis and in the library.

Endowed with an unusual capacity for work Jeanselme wrote, while carrying on his clinical activities, on historical matters and was one of the most competent of French savants on Byzantine history. He produced two monographs on the history of leprosy in Europe. He was one of the founders, in 1926, of the *Société Internationale de la Lèpre* which, though prevented by unfavorable circumstances from developing, helped to prepare the way for the organization, five years later, of the *International Leprosy Association* in which he took an active interest. Jeanselme had a distinctive personality, strong and attractive, and was one of the great physician-leprologists of his time. [ET. BURNET.]