

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.

Brazil. *II International Congress of the College of Hansenology of the Endemic Countries.* The II Congress of Hansenology of the Endemic Countries will be held at Carville, Louisiana, U.S.A., in December 1985. The address of Dr. Robert C. Hastings, who will preside over the II Congress, is: National Hansen's Disease Center, Carville, LA 70721, U.S.A. The address of the College is: Rua Nascimento Silva 16/201, CEP 22.421, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. President: Prof. R. D. Azulay; Secretary-Treasurer: Dr. Célio de Paula Motta.—Hansen. Int. 6 (1981) 156.

Canada. *XI International Congress for Tropical Medicine and Malaria (ICTMM).* The XI ICTMM will be held at the Calgary Convention Centre, Calgary, Alberta, Canada, 16–22 February 1984. Program objectives are to provide a review of current knowledge of the major disease problems of the tropics; an assessment of the state-of-the-art for prevention, control, and treatment of these diseases. The program will include plenary sessions, symposia, workshops and free communication (oral and poster) sessions on such topics as malaria and other parasitic and infectious diseases of the tropics; nutrition and health in the tropics; health care for tropical communities, population dynamics: maternal and child health protection; environmental health protection: water, liquid, and solid wastes, disease vectors; impact and management of tropical disease problems in the temperate zone, and the development process: impact on health in the tropics.—From the Announcement.

Germany. *Dr. Lutz Hartdegen.* We were saddened to learn of the death of Dr. Lutz Hartdegen on 14 November 1982, after a sudden heart attack. Dr. Hartdegen created the Hartdegen Fund for Thai Leprosy Patients which later merged with the German Leprosy Relief Association and finally with

the International Federation of Anti-Leprosy Associations (ILEP). From 1974–1975 he acted as president of ILEP, and was a member of its Standing Committee from 1973 through 1976.

India. *Action Plans for Leprosy Control meeting.* A meeting on Action Plans for Leprosy Control was held in the WHO regional office for southeast Asia, New Delhi, 23–25 August 1982. It was convened by the WHO Leprosy Unit, Geneva, and was considered an essential step for the implementation of the multidrug therapy (MDT) recommended by the WHO Study Group on Chemotherapy of Leprosy for Control Programmes in October 1981 (WHO Technical Report Series No. 675).

The meeting had a global representation and participants included: Some experts on chemotherapy and leprosy control; representatives from contributing agencies [UNICEF, SIDA and voluntary agencies (VAs) (ILEP and JSIF), and from the International Leprosy Association]; and the responsible officers for leprosy in all WHO regional offices and from WHO headquarters in Geneva.

Objectives of the meeting were:

- 1) To define the implications of MDT for leprosy programs.
- 2) To explore the ways by which contributing agencies could strengthen their cooperation with governments and WHO in the solution of the relevant problems.

The meeting recognized that the implementation of MDT for leprosy is essential. Recommendations on the following subjects were made based on a review of the current situation in the various regions as well as on reactions from contributing agencies:

- a) Minimum requirements for introduction of MDT.
- b) Priorities regarding the various groups

of patients who would receive multi-drug therapy.

- c) Optimal strategy for case-detection and case-holding.
- d) Integrated services and primary health care including community involvement.
- e) Reorganization of leprosy control services.
- f) Mechanism for strengthening cooperation between governments, VAs and WHO.
- g) Exchange of information.

Recommendations were also made concerning the mobilization of additional resources, the main ones being:

- a) Donor agencies would encourage the programs they are supporting to carry out the WHO-recommended MDT in full.
- b) Collaboration in the procurement of drugs should make use of special facilities in price and logistics available to some VAs.
- c) Exchange of information on all aspects of MDT between WHO and contributing agencies should be developed at national, international and global levels.

A report on the meeting is available from the Leprosy Unit, WHO, Geneva, on request.—Dr. H. Sansarricq

Dr. Nilakanta Rao awarded Damien-de-Veuster Medal. The Damien-de-Veuster Medal was awarded to Dr. M. S. Nilakanta Rao at the decennial celebrations of the German Leprosy Relief Association, Munich, on 23 September 1982. Dr. Nilakanta Rao has more than three decades of outstanding service in the field of leprosy. He is at present actively associated with implementation of the multidrug program in selected districts in the country. He is now the chairman of the National Leprosy Organization in India.—Dr. M. Christian.

JALMA 1981 Annual Report. The Central JALMA Institute for Leprosy, Agra, has completed nearly six years of work by the end of 1981. Founded in 1966 by the Japan Leprosy Mission for Asia (JALMA), the Institute was functioning under the auspices of JALMA for ten years. It was formally handed over to the government of India in

April 1976. The government of India, in turn, entrusted the Institute to the Indian Council of Medical Research and since then it has been functioning as a permanent Institute of the Council. After being taken over by the Indian Council of Medical Research, the Institute has been carrying out the twin activities of leprosy research and service to the leprosy patients. The activities of this Institute during 1981 are detailed in this report.

There were several additions to the scientific staff during the year under report. Dr. V. D. Ramanathan, who had obtained his Ph.D. in immunology from London University and who was earlier working at the Institute as Research Associate, was appointed as Research Officer. Dr. Usha Ramanathan, a medical graduate from Madras University with a postgraduate diploma in mental health, was appointed as Assistant Research Officer and assigned the duties of a Medical Officer in addition to investigation in psychological and social problems of leprosy patients. Dr. Sajid Hussain, a medical graduate, was also appointed as an Assistant Research Officer in the Clinical Division. Shri Arun Kumar Dutta and Shri Sudhir Kumar Sinha were appointed as Assistant Research Officers in the Microbiology and Immunology Laboratories, respectively. Shri Dutta was earlier working as Research Fellow and Shri Sinha as Research Assistant in this Institute. Three Research Assistants were recruited namely, Shri V. D. Sharma, Shri K. B. Kannan and Shri O. P. Verma, to work respectively in the Departments of Microbiology, Biochemistry and Immunology. During the year under report, Dr. V. D. Mathur, Assistant Research Officer working in the Clinical Division, resigned from this Institute for employment elsewhere.

Some of the scientists availed special training in other laboratories during the year. Dr. V. M. Katoch was awarded the International Tropical Diseases Research Fellowship for a year in the laboratory of Dr. Lawrence G. Wayne at the VA Hospital, Long Beach, California, U.S.A. His deputation was specially to study mycobacteria, especially to be helpful in taxonomical investigations. Under the Indo-UK Technical Co-operation project two scientists worked in the laboratories in England. Dr. B. K.

Girdhar worked for three months at St. John's Hospital, London, and Slade Hospital, Oxford, studying certain clinical problems associated with leprosy. Dr. U. Sengupta worked at the Wellcome Research Laboratories in England for four months. His work was specially concentrated on attempts to produce specific antibodies against *Mycobacterium leprae* by the hybridoma technology.

Consultation services were provided by Dr. K. V. Desikan, Director, and Dr. G. Ramu, Deputy Director. Dr. Desikan was invited by the WHO as a short-term consultant from October to December 1981 to advise the government of Nepal in multidrug therapy, training, and research in leprosy. Dr. G. Ramu worked for three months as a consultant at the Tuberculosis Chemotherapy Centre, Madras, to help and guide on the feasibility of BCG vaccination against leprosy, a study already in progress.

During the year under report the Institute carried out two training courses for medical officers in leprosy. Each course was for a period of six weeks. A ten-day course on general immunology and immunological techniques was conducted specially for the TSS Fellows of ICMR. Two workshops under the auspices of the WHO were carried out in the year. One was on advanced techniques in teaching held in April 1981, and the other was held in December 1981.

The Institute helped in the organization of the XII Biennial Conference of the Indian Association of Leprologists from 9–12 September 1981. The conference was attended by about 300 delegates from all parts of India; 126 papers were presented at the conference, including two special lectures by Dr. R. C. Hastings from the National Hansen's Disease Center, Carville, Louisiana, U.S.A., and Dr. D. K. Dastur from the Neuropathology Department, JJ Group Hospitals, Bombay. Dr. R. J. W. Rees from the National Institute for Medical Research, London, delivered a guest lecture. The conference was inaugurated by Prof. V. Ramalingaswami, Director-General, Indian Council of Medical Research.—(From the Introduction)

Multidrug regimen project initiated. The multidrug regimen project has been initi-

ated in four hyperendemic districts in India—Wardha, Purulia, Visianagaram, and Srikakulam. This project is being financed by the Swedish International Development Authority and is being implemented, with assistance from the World Health Organization (WHO), by the government of India, and the respective state governments. It is proposed to extend this scheme to cover ten hyperendemic districts throughout India over the next two years. Under this project, all multibacillary patients are being treated with rifampin, clofazimine, and dapsone in accordance with schedules recommended by the government of India and the WHO Study Group 1981.—Dr. M. Christian

Padma Shri awarded to Dr. Ganapati. Dr. R. Ganapati, Director of the Bombay Leprosy Project, was awarded Padma Shri by the President of India in January 1983. This is a highly esteemed national award for distinguished service in the field of leprosy. Dr. Ganapati has rendered outstanding service in the field of urban leprosy control for more than two decades.—Dr. M. Christian

XII International Leprosy Congress abstract deadline extended. The deadline for the reception of abstracts for the XII Congress has been extended to 31 August 1983. Abstracts should be sent to: Dr. S. G. Browne, Secretary General, International Leprosy Association, 16 Bridgefield Road, Sutton, Surrey SM2 5JE, England. Abstracts are acceptable only from authors who fully intend to register at the Congress and must be prepared as follows: Four identical copies, typed double spaced with wide (3 cm) margins left and right. Only one abstract will be considered from any one author who is the first-named, sole or principal author of the paper. The place of the work for only the first author should be given. Titles and degrees are not required. Graphs, tables and photographs should not be sent. All abstracts submitted will be considered in early October by the President's Reading Committee. Each author will be informed if the abstract submitted may be presented as a full paper, as a paper to be read by title only, or as a poster presentation.

The Congress will be held at the Vigyan Bhavan, New Delhi, India (see March issue

of the JOURNAL for detailed information). For further Congress information, contact Dr. R. H. Thangaraj, Organizing Secretary, 1 Red Cross Road, New Delhi 110 011, India.

Mexico. *V International Congress of Tropical Dermatology to meet in Mexico City.* Durante los días 17 al 20 de octubre de 1984, tendrá lugar en la ciudad de México el V Congreso Internacional de Dermatología Tropical, organizado por el Servicio de Dermatología Pediátrica del Instituto Nacional de Pediatría.

Se celebrará bajo la presidencia del Prof. Dr. Ramón Ruiz-Maldonado, Jefe del Servicio de Dermatología.

Para mayor información, dirigirse a:
Apdo. Postal 101-16
Mexico 04530, D.F. Mexico

Spain. *Fontilles announces courses in leprosy.* XXVI Curso Internacional de Leprología Para Misioneros y Auxiliares Sanitarios y XIX Curso Internacional de Leprología Para Médicos, organizado por el Sanatorio San Francisco de Borja de Fontilles y patrocinado por la Soberana Orden Militar de Malta con la colaboración de la Escuela Profesional de Dermatología de la Universidad de Valencia Ministerio de Sanidad y Seguridad Social y Professors of Dermatology de las Facultades de Medicina, tendrá lugar en el Sanatorio de Fontilles.

El XXVI Curso tendrá lugar 17 de Octubre al 5 de Noviembre de 1983. El XIX Curso tendrá lugar 3 al 8 de Octubre de 1983.

Los aspirantes a este curso deberán dirigir sus instancias al Comité Ejecutivo Internacional, 3 Place Claparede, Ginebra (Suiza) antes del 30 Junio de 1983 y al mismo tiempo al Dr. Jose Terencio de las Aguas, Sanatorio de San Francisco de Borja, Fontilles, Alicante, España.

U.S.A. *International seminar schedule for 1984 at the National Hansen's Disease Center.* The 1984 seminar schedule is as follows:

Medical Seminar on Hansen's Disease

March 6-7, 1984

May 22-23, 1984

October 9-10, 1984

International Seminar on Hansen's Disease

April 29-May 5, 1984

September 9-15, 1984

Seminar on Care of the Insensitive Foot

February 7-9, 1984

October 23-25, 1984

Seminar on Care of the Insensitive Hand

March 27-29, 1984

For further information contact: Richard J. O'Connor, Ed.D., National Hansen's Disease Center, Carville, Louisiana 70721, U.S.A.

NEWS FROM NATIONAL LEPROSY ORGANIZATIONS

China. *Second Plenary Session of the National Consultative Committee on Leprosy Control convened at Kunming.* From 11-16 January 1983 the Second Plenary Session of the National Consultative Committee on Leprosy Control and Research was held in Kunming under the sponsorship of the Ministry of Health. Twenty-one leprosy specialists from various provinces of China took part in the session. A written list of opinions by Dr. Ma Haide, Advisor to the Ministry of Health, as guidelines for discussion during the session was presented

in his absence. Dr. Ye Gan-yun, Chairman of the Committee, presided at the session. The themes of the session involving the papers to be presented at the XII International Leprosy Congress in 1984, combined chemotherapy regimen of leprosy and the focal points of leprosy control and research in future activities were fully reviewed and discussed with frank exchange of views between the participants and the experts. Consultative proposals for leprosy work adopted by the session were submitted to the Ministry of Health.—Dr. Ye Gan-yun.

India. *Gandhi Memorial Leprosy Foundation Report 1981-82.* The Gandhi Memorial Leprosy Foundation in Wardha has now completed 31 years of work. There were five leprosy control units in operation, in Maharashtra, Karnataka, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, and West Bengal. During 1981, health education units were functioning in West Bengal, Orissa, Maharashtra, and Kerala. At the Leprosy Referral Centre and Hospital at Wardha, an average of 1310 patients per month attended the out-patient department. There were 535 in-patient admissions. During the year three groups of physicians underwent six-week training courses at the Wardha Training Centre. Three groups received two-months' training in health education. Four groups received training as paramedical workers in 1981-82; other groups received laboratory training. The Foundation received over 120 visitors during 1981.—RCH

Proceedings of 1983 Eastern Regional Leprosy Workers' Conference. The conference, sponsored by the National Leprosy Organization and Hind Kusht Nivaran Sangh in collaboration with Bharat Sevashram Sangha, Jamshedpur, and Nav Jagrāt Manav Samaj, was inaugurated on 5 March 1983 by Shri V. N. Mishra, IAS, Deputy Commissioner, Singhbhum District, Bihar. In his address Shri Mishra underlined the importance of the control of leprosy, which is receiving high priority in the health activities of the government of India. He hoped that the deliberations of the conference would promote leprosy control work in this region. He also assured financial help for the social and rehabilitation programs of persons handicapped due to leprosy. He thanked the Tata Industries for their involvement in this constructive work.

The keynote address was given by Mr. Sarosh J. Ghandy, Director and General Manager, TELCO. He particularly emphasized the need for appropriate treatment facilities for leprosy patients and drew attention to the need for promoting a sense of patient self-sufficiency and self-reliance which, according to him, are the true indices of rehabilitation. He hoped that the misconceptions about leprosy would be removed through various means of education

and communication. He welcomed all the participants and wished them success in their deliberations.

The Health Education Exhibition was inaugurated by Shri V. N. Mishra. There were eight stalls displaying various educational and informative materials. Various types of crafts by leprosy patients in various centers were exhibited and drew appreciation from all the visitors.

The First Technical Session, Epidemiology of Leprosy, was chaired by Dr. V. Ekambaram. Of the two main papers in this session, the first one was by Dr. S. K. Kundu and dealt with the "Recent Ideas in the Transmission of Leprosy." The role of the discharge of large numbers of leprosy germs through coughing, sneezing, and nose blow were fully discussed as were several questions that were raised after the paper was read. The next paper was from Dr. D. S. Chaudhury and dealt with the "Growing Problem of Leprosy in Urban Areas." He mentioned that industrialization as such is not the cause of growing problems. What is required is total forward-looking urban planning with adequate provisions of health and environmental care. He also emphasized the importance of taking the services to the villages so that the people do not leave the villages in search of jobs or service facilities in an unbridled manner. In this session three other papers—"Epidemiological Trends of Leprosy in Eastern Coalfield Areas" by Dr. Kulshrestha, "Epidemiological Profile of Leprosy on a Longitudinal Study at Jhargram" by Dr. R. S. S. H. Sarma, and "An Analysis of the Medico-social Problem from the Angle of a Medico-social Worker" presented by Mr. P. C. Ray from Grecales, Calcutta—were read. All evoked considerable interest and, within the time available, discussions were held.

The Second Technical Session, Control of Leprosy and National Leprosy Control Programme, was chaired by Dr. U. Sen in place of Dr. Tirkey who could not be present. In this session Dr. (Mrs.) M. Chaudhury gave an outline of the "Recent Advances of Leprosy Control Work." This was followed by a paper by Dr. D. S. Chaudhury dealing with the "Impact of the New Ideas on National Leprosy Control Programme" in which he mentioned the importance of mul-

tidrug therapy, the prerequisites of its use, opportunity to find persons who lack resistance against leprosy, importance of a progressive interlinking of National Leprosy Control Programme activities with basic health care facilities and, lastly, the opportunity to disseminate promotive ideas of leprosy control through various methods of mass media. This, he added, would ensure more self-reporting, identification of early cases, laboratory control, and appropriate evaluation. The National Leprosy Control Programme in West Bengal, Bihar, and Orissa were represented by its respective state representatives.

The Third Technical Session, the Medical Management of Leprosy, was chaired by Dr. H. C. Mohanty. There were two invited papers. "Drug Combinations and Its Feasibility in the Field" was fully discussed by Dr. (Miss) Claire Vellut. Her paper was of topical interest as more and more areas are going to be covered by multidrug regimen projects. "The Medical Management of Reactions" was read by Dr. Bikas Chatterjee. Of the three proffered papers, a very useful presentation was made by Dr. Dilip Das of the Jhargram Leprosy Project on "Medical Management of Neuritis in Leprosy," which is a matter of utmost concern to leprosy workers, especially those who are working in the field. The other paper was presented by Dr. Kishore Mahapatra who dealt, in a general way, with the management of leprosy. The chairman summed up the proceedings and also showed some slides to illustrate his speech.

The Fourth Technical Session, with Dr. C. N. Sharma as chairman, dealt with the Surgical Management of Leprosy. The first paper was presented by Dr. C. Lobo who indicated the "Criteria and Priorities in the Surgical Management of Leprosy" in a categorical manner. The next paper from Dr. Subrata Ghosh, "Ocular Involvement in Leprosy," indicated the importance of an understanding of the different means in which the eyes can be involved in leprosy, the ways to prevent it, and the methods to manage it. Dr. S. N. Bhakta of Adra Leprosy Project gave "A General Review of Basic Limb Care Applicable in Field Conditions." In his paper, Dr. S. K. Samanta of Durgapur indicated the "Prevalence of Eye Lesions in Leprosy in this Area." The third paper from

Shri Jaydev Sahu dealt with useful suggestions regarding "Physiotherapy Management in Leprosy in a Rural Set Up."

The Fifth Technical Session, Training in Leprosy, which was chaired by Dr. P. K. Ghosh, had two main papers—one was presented by Dr. R. N. Basu who dealt with the "Needs for Revision of Course Contents in Training of Leprosy in the Light of Recent Advances," and the other paper was from Dr. S. C. Sen of Grecales, who spoke on "Importance of Training of Workers." The other three papers were by: Mrs. Margaret Mahato of Dhanbad, who dealt with "Physiotherapy Training in Leprosy"; Dr. S. Chakraborty of South Eastern Railways who dealt with the "Common Problem in the Differential Diagnosis of Leprosy," and Mrs. Arati Das of Grecales, who spoke on the "Importance of Communication in Training of Leprosy."

The Sixth Technical Session dealt with Pathology and Immunology of Leprosy under the chairmanship of Dr. Jal Mehta. In the invited papers, Dr. Sachin Chaudhury talked about the "Immunoprophylaxis in Leprosy and Its Possibilities." Dr. Ashoke Mukherjee of I.C.M.R. gave as his presentation "Laboratory Diagnosis Applicable in Field Conditions" as well as "Lepromin and Its Applications in Control Programs." His presentations and subsequent answers to questions were highly appreciated. Two other small papers dealing with "Procedures to Take Smears Correctly and Methods of Staining Them" by Shri G. S. Senapati from Grecales, Calcutta, and a resume on "Pathology and Immunology of Leprosy" by Shri V. Periaswamy, G.M.L.F., were presented in this session. The session had Dr. C. Banerjee, Principal, M.G.M. Medical College, Jamshedpur, as guest of honor.

The Seventh Technical Session, Health Education in Leprosy, was chaired by Shri H. S. Varma. Shri S. R. Giri read a paper on "Methods of Health Education in Rural and Urban Areas in Relation to Leprosy Control." The other three papers came from Shri T. K. Mukherjee, Jhargram Leprosy Project, who dealt with the "Importance of Teachers and Other Community Level Workers in Health Education in Leprosy"; Shri S. K. Banerjee of Bharat Sevashram Sangha, Jamshedpur, dealing with "Health

Education in Rural Areas," and Shri M. K. Paul of G.M.L.F. who dealt with "The Methods, Media and Content of Health Education." The session was summed up by both Shri S. P. Tare and Shri H. S. Varma.

Dr. Tirkey, Director-in-Chief of Medical and Public Health Services, Government of Bihar, attended the conference and made some valued observations.

The Eighth Session, Social Aspects and Rehabilitation of Leprosy, was chaired by Mr. Homi Bodhanwalla, Special Advisor to TISCO. In this session, two major papers were presented by Dr. R. S. Sharma and Shri Rathin Bhaduri. Dr. R. S. Sharma's paper was comprehensive, dealing with "Social Aspects and Rehabilitation of Leprosy Patients." On the same subject, Shri Bhaduri gave some of his personal observations. Dr. S. R. Tripathy of South Eastern Railways, Adra, read a paper on "Rehabilitation of Cured Persons Employed in the Railways." Shri S. N. Mittal of Jamshedpur gave an interesting talk on "Legal Aspects Which Influence the Social Status and Rehabilitation of Leprosy Patients." Shri Homi Bodhanwalla summed up the proceedings in a succinct manner.

After the tea, the valedictory address was presented by Dr. A. L. Goswami, Chief Medical Officer of South Eastern Railways. In a brilliant review of the entire perspective of the problem of leprosy, the speaker impressed upon the conferees the need for multidrug therapy, effective community participation through health education, and greater involvement of governmental agencies and voluntary organizations. In this regard he welcomed the involvement of indigenous Indian social organizations like Bharat Sevashram Sangha. He dealt at length with the need for training different groups of workers who should also be exposed to the experience of teamwork. He hoped that with continued dedication and qualitative attention, the problem of leprosy will be ultimately resolved in the foreseeable future.

The closing session was chaired by Swamy Buddhanandaji.

Dr. D. S. Chaudhury gave a summary

review of the proceedings. He also presented the important points which emerged from the proceedings of the conference.

The following resolutions were passed unanimously in the conference:

1. The conference feels that the government of India should act on the recommendations of the working group on the strategy of leprosy eradication by 2000 A.D.

2. The conference feels the need for a close examination and revision of the existing syllabi of training of various categories of leprosy workers. To look into the matter, the government of India may appoint an appropriate committee consisting of leprologists and agencies involved in leprosy training.

3. The conference urges that the government should simplify the procedures to release grants well in time after appropriate scrutiny of the requests and ensuring that the requests are based on factual needs and duly supported with required documents indicating the utilization of the grants earlier released.

The conference came to a close with an address from Swamy Buddhanandaji who thanked and blessed all the participants, including the distinguished personalities: the Deputy Commissioner, Singhbhum, Bihar; Shri Sarosh J. Ghandy of TELCO; Shri Homi Bodhanwalla of TISCO, and Shri H. S. Varma of Nav Jagrat Manav Samaj. He invoked the blessings of God and hoped that with the active cooperation of all this cause of human suffering can be removed, and he assured the full cooperation of Bharat Sevashram Sangha in this venture.—
(Adapted from proceedings summary received from Dr. D. S. Chaudhury)

XIII Biennial Conference of Indian Association of Leprologists. Bombay will be the meeting site of the XIII Biennial Conference of the Indian Association of Leprologists on 18–20 November 1983. For further information contact: Dr. R. Ganapati, Hon. Secretary, Indian Association of Leprologists, 6/27 Amar Bhuvan, Sion (East), Bombay 400 022, India.