

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.

Africa. *OCEAC and OCCGE—two organizations with well-established interests in leprosy in some of the French-speaking countries of Africa.* Organisation pour la Lutte contre les Endémies en Afrique Centrale (OCEAC): This is an international organization which was founded in 1963 and currently includes Cameroon, Gabon, and Congo-Brazzaville. An administrative council meets every year and it is composed of ministers of health of the above countries. The yearly budget originates approximately two thirds from the member countries and one third from France, but over and above this, France finances the services of a general secretary and a number of local doctors. For some years, the Fondations Follereau have supported training in leprosy, especially for the grade of worker called "infirmier lèpre." During 1980, however, training was modified and now consists of a course of 24 months for 20 state qualified nurses, selected from the member countries, with a polyvalent curriculum which includes leprosy, trypanosomiasis, malaria and schistosomiasis. It is held in Yaounde, Cameroon.

Every two years, OCEAC organizes a 4–5 day technical conference during which specialists in major endemic diseases present papers with emphasis on the current problems in each country. The main point of these conferences is to provide an opportunity for the chief medical officers of each sector to exchange views and take part in discussions. In April 1982, 44 doctors from the member countries attended a conference in which a whole day was given to the new multiple drug regimens for the treatment of leprosy, under the chairmanship of Dr. H. Sansarricq from WHO in Geneva. Finally, OCEAC publishes a regular review, mainly for the medical officers of its member countries, which keeps them up to date with current events and progress on the main diseases they have to combat.

Organisation de Coordination et de Coopération pour la Lutte contre les Grandes Endémies (OCCGE): This is an international organization founded in 1960 and composed of the following members—Benin, Ivory Coast, Upper Volta, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Senegal, and Togo. Fondations Follereau have supported the training of various categories of leprosy workers from the Marchoux Institute in Bamako, Mali, and of nurses and laboratory workers from the Tropical Ophthalmology Institute (IOTA), also in Bamako. Financial support has also been given for doctors of the eight member countries to attend conferences and for various expenses in the running of the secretariat.

OCCGE and OCEAC actually own the following important centers in the countries concerned: 1) the Marchoux Institute at Bamako, Mali, which specializes in leprosy; 2) the Tropical Ophthalmology Institute (IOTA) in Bamako; 3) an organization for research on feeding and nutrition in Africa (ORANA) in Dakar, Senegal; 4) the Institute for Research on Onchocerciasis (IRO) at Bouake in Ivory Coast; 5) a center for research on cerebro-spinal meningitis in Niamey in Niger; 6) the Centre Muraz which specializes in campaigns against trypanosomiasis, in Bobo-Dioulasso in Upper Volta; 7) a pilot scheme on leprosy-tuberculosis in Nouakchott, Mauritania; and 8) a pilot scheme on nutrition in Lome, Togo.—*Leprosy Review*

Belgium. *Fondation Albert Dubois prize.* Starting in 1985, the Fondation Albert Dubois will be awarding once every five years to one or more researchers working together or alone a prize of BF500,000 for an original scientific paper on tropical diseases.

The paper must be written in French, Dutch, or English, regardless of the nationality of its author(s) and must have been done at any time between 1 January 1980

and 31 December 1984. Full members or honorary members of the Academie Royale Belge de Medecine are not eligible for the prize.

All enquiries should be directed to: Prof. Dr. P. Limbos, Secretaire, Fondation Albert Dubois, Institut de Medecine Tropicale Prince Leopold, Nationalestraat 155, B-2000 Antwerpen, Belgium.

Canada. *XI International Congress for Tropical Medicine and Malaria.* The Congress will be held in Calgary, Canada, 16–22 September 1984. For information write: Secretariat XI ICTMM, Conference Office, The University of Calgary, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T2N 1N4.

China. *Chinese surgeon visits U.S., India, and Thailand to review achievements in leprosy rehabilitation.* With the purpose of investigating the most recent advances about rehabilitation work for leprosy patients, Chinese surgeon Dr. Zheng Tisheng, Deputy Director of the Leprosy Research Department of the Institute of Dermatology, CAMS, visited the United States, India, and Thailand under the distinguished patronage of Professor Michel Lechat, President of the International Leprosy Association, with the support of the Damien Foundation from 1 October to 25 November 1983. He visited the National Hansen's Disease Center, Carville, in the United States; the Sacred Heart Leprosy Center, Kumbakonam, and the Schieffelin Leprosy Research and Training Center, Karigiri, in India; the Phra-Pra-Daeng Hospital, Raj-Pracha-Samasai Institute, McKean Rehabilitation Institute, and the Research Institute of Health Sciences of the University of Chiang Mai in Thailand. Everywhere Dr. Zheng visited most warm hospitality was extended to him by colleagues of these countries. Full exchanges of views with noted leprologists and rehabilitation experts about the mutual experiences in the development of leprosy rehabilitation and other relevant subjects during discussions proved both beneficial and rewarding.

After making on-the-spot investigations into their patient clinics, hospital wards, operating rooms, physiotherapy departments, orthotic departments, occupational therapy departments, research departments, and social work departments, Dr. Zheng has ac-

quired a better understanding of the worldwide range of the present status of leprosy rehabilitation and its future projects for development. At present, although China has achieved remarkable success in the control of leprosy, her leprosy rehabilitation is still insufficient to meet the specific needs of the majority of patients. As the result of his successful visit, Dr. Zheng has gained much valuable experience in the current development of leprosy rehabilitation which will be able to play a more significant role in our future activities. This should further enhance our present conditions and allow us to take decisive steps toward improving the working status of our leprosy rehabilitation.—Ye Gan-yun

Dr. Ma Haide (George Hatem) honored for 50 years of work in China. A grand reception to commemorate the 50th anniversary of Dr. Ma Haide's work in China was enthusiastically held at the Hall of People in Beijing on 22 November 1983. Dr. Ma is both an outstanding and forward-looking leprologist and a distinguished dermatologist in China, who has been adviser to the Ministry of Public Health since the founding of the People's Republic of China in 1949. He was born of Lebanese parents in Buffalo, New York, U.S.A., and came to China in early 1933—just half a century ago. He has made outstanding contributions to the medical services of the Chinese people, particularly in the eradication of venereal diseases and splendid work in the control of leprosy in China. Dr. Ma was honored with the 1982 award for leprosy aid by the Damien-Dutton Society in recognition of his great contribution over many years in the field of leprosy.

Among the 200 honorable guests at the reception were Party and State leaders Deng Xiaoping, Deng Yingchao, etc., who extended their warmest greetings to Dr. Ma for the meritorious work he has done in the past 50 years for the health of Chinese people and the Chinese revolutionary cause. Dr. Cui Yueli, Minister of Public Health, in his speech at the reception highly extolled Dr. Ma for his excellent work in leprosy control and his great contribution to the best interests of the public during his long years in China, and called for all medical workers to follow the example of Dr. Ma Haide. In the

answering speech, Dr. Ma strongly stressed that his long-standing interest in the eradication of leprosy in China as a menace to the health of mankind by the year 2000 could come about only through the combined efforts of our colleagues to fight against this disease strenuously during the days to come.

The ambassadors of the United States and Lebanon; Dr. Ye Gan-yun, Chairman of the National Consultative Committee of Leprosy, and Vice-Chairman, Dr. Li Huanying were also present. They all toasted with congratulations to Dr. Ma for the successful achievements in antileprosy work in China under his wise instructions and the considerable effort he has exerted.—Ye Gan-yun

National Training Course in Leprosy Pathology inaugurated. Based on the directive of the Ministry of Public Health, the Institute of Dermatology, Chinese Academy of Medical Sciences, organized and sponsored the National Training Course in Leprosy Pathology which was held in Taizhou from 27 September to 10 November 1983, with an attendance of 30 trainees from 17 provinces, municipalities, and autonomous regions throughout the country. The following main topics were covered: histology of skin; dermatopathological basis of the skin; immunology, bacteriology, and classification of leprosy; histopathology of lepra reaction; differential diagnosis of leprosy from dermatoses; histoid leproma; neuropathology, immunopathology and visceral pathology of leprosy; ultrastructure of leprosy; experimental pathology of leprosy, and dermatopathological techniques.

It would help to raise the standards of the trainees to update their knowledge of leprosy particularly in its pathological diagnosis, classification, evaluation of antileprotic agents, and scientific research by the end of their studies at the course.—Ye Gan-yun

France. *5^e Congrès International de l'Association de Léprologues de Langue française.* The Congress will be held in November 1985 in Monastir, Tunisia. For details write: Dr. D. Wallach, Hôpital Saint Louis, 2 place du Docteur Fournier, F-75475 Paris Cedex 10, France.

Germany. *German Leprosy Relief Association (GLRA) holds 1982 Annual General Meeting.* During the 1982 financial year the German Leprosy Relief Association received donations totalling DM28.9 million. Thanks to this support by people from all walks of life, the GLRA could provide assistance to 322 projects in 47 countries of Africa (147 projects in 26 countries), Asia (137 projects in 9 countries), and Latin America (46 projects in 9 countries), and also contribute considerable means towards leprosy research and health education. The above figures were disclosed by the GLRA's board of directors and management at the Annual General Meeting at Würzburg on 22 October 1983. The Annual General Meeting approved the board's annual report.—GLRA news release

India. *Dr. Elisabeth Vomstein receives Distinguished Service Medal of Baden-Württemberg.* A leprosy doctor with more than 20 years of dedicated work with leprosy patients in South India, Dr. Elisabeth Vomstein was decorated by Mr. Lothar Späth, prime minister of the federal state of Baden-Württemberg, with the state's Distinguished Service Medal. She has been working since 1960 on appointment by the German Leprosy Relief Association (GLRA) at the southern India leprosy center of Chettipatty. Baden-Württemberg's Minister for Justice, Dr. Eyrich, praised Dr. Vomstein's merits in the fight against leprosy at a ceremony which took place at Schliengen, her home town. The GLRA has been supporting Dr. Vomstein's place of work, the leprosy center of Chettipatty, since 1958.—GLRA news release

Eleventh Workshop on Leprosy held. The Eleventh Workshop on Leprosy was conducted at Bombay on 23 March 1983 by the Acworth Leprosy Hospital Society for Research, Rehabilitation and Education. It was presided over by Dr. P. R. Mahadevan, Director, Experimental Biology and Chemotherapy, Foundation for Medical Research, Bombay. These periodic workshops were initiated in 1976 with a view to coordinate the research activities in leprosy in Bombay. Institutions participating in the workshop

were: Foundation for Medical Research, Cancer Research Centre, Radiation Medicine Centre, Haffkine Institute, Grant Medical College, Bombay Leprosy Project, and the Acworth Leprosy Hospital Society for Research, Rehabilitation and Education in Leprosy.

Hind Kusht Nivaran Sangh annual general meeting. The annual general meeting of the Hind Kusht Nivaran Sangh was held on Saturday, 6 August 1983, at Rashtrapati Bhavan, New Delhi. The meeting was presided over by Shri Zail Singh, President of India and President of the Hind Kusht Nivaran Sangh. About 75 persons, including members of the governing body and from state branches and special invitees, attended the meeting. At the meeting, the annual reports of the Sangh for the years 1981 and 1982 were presented. The audited statements of income and expenditure for the years 1981 and 1982 and the budget for 1983 were also presented and approved. M/S Price Waterhouse and Co. were appointed as auditors for 1983. Under Rules 3 and 3(c), the President nominated Shri N. R. Laskar as Chairman, Shri G. C. Baveja as Honorary Treasurer and Shri Ajit Bhowmick as Honorary Secretary of the Sangh for the year 1983. Five other members were also nominated by the President on the governing body and the governing body of the Sangh was reconstituted.

90th anniversary celebrated by The Leprosy Mission Hospital at Poladpur. Recently The Leprosy Mission Hospital at Poladpur celebrated its 90th anniversary. The first leprosy colony in Poladpur was established in 1893 around the grave of one Donald Mitchell, who had arrived in India in 1823 as the first missionary to that country from Scotland. Dr. Duncan Fraser, who was based at the Wilson College, Bombay, really began to develop the work by regular visits from Bombay, and then Dr. Victor Das and his wife joined the Poladpur staff in 1943. This marked the commencement of a building program and the establishment of what today is a very fine Leprosy Mission campus.

The chapel, which is the center of the Poladpur work, is dedicated to the memory of

Donald Mitchell and Haripant Kelkar, who were instrumental in the funding and early years of the work. The present superintendent at Poladpur is Dr. (Mrs.) Kamala Luther.—*New Day*

Sundar Egbert awarded Rene Sand Award. The 1982 Rene Sand Award was awarded to Mr. Sundar Egbert, Manager of the Salvation Army Catherine Booth Hospital Vocational Training Centre for the Physically Handicapped, Aramboly (Tamil Nadu), by the International Council of Social Welfare (ICSW) at the XXI International Conference on Social Welfare held in Brighton, England, from 29 August–4 September 1982. Mr. Egbert was the second Indian to receive this highest award that the ICSW can bestow. The first recipient of the award was Rajkumari Amrit Kaur of India in 1961. The other winners were: 1968—Pierre Laroque (France), 1970—Eugen Pusic (Yugoslavia), 1972—Julia Henderson (International Planned Parenthood Federation), 1974—James Riby Williams (U.N. Economic Commission for Africa), and 1978—UNICEF. In honoring Mr. Egbert, the ICSW had recognized his remarkable contribution in the area of welfare of the physically handicapped (including those with leprosy) and his courageous dedication to promoting human well-being among his fellowmen.

Italy. Workshop on Management of Leprosy in Countries with Developed Health Services. This workshop was held in Santa Margherita, April–May 1983, and was the third in a series organized by the Amica di Raoul Follereau (formerly called the Amici dei Lebbrosi). The proceedings have been published in *Quaderni di Cooperazione Sanitaria*. The objective on this occasion was to consider aspects of the leprosy problems in countries with developed health services (essentially Europe, America, and some countries in the Far East and South America) and to make recommendations for improvement, bearing in mind the recent WHO advice on multiple drug therapy. The Chairman of the Organizing Committee was Dr. D. L. Leiker of Amsterdam. The program sessions were:

I. Pharmacodynamics of sulfones, J. K. Seydel (W. Germany); The pharmacodynamics of clofazimine, S. G. Browne (U.K.); The pharmacodynamics of rifampin, S. R. Pattyn (Belgium); Pharmacological and experimental evidence for the selection of drugs in the treatment of leprosy, G. A. El-lard (U.K.).

II. Drug-sensitive persisters and drug resistance in leprosy, S. R. Pattyn (Belgium); Microbial persistence in mycobacterial infections, J. Grosset (France); Principles of chemotherapy in tuberculosis, J. Grosset (France); Principles of chemotherapy in leprosy in relation to disease control, S. K. Noordeen (WHO); Compliance and compliance testing, H. Huikeshoven (The Netherlands); Drug-sensitivity testing in leprosy, S. R. Pattyn (Belgium).

III. Leprosy reactions and their management, differential diagnosis with relapse, B. Naafs (The Netherlands); Release from treatment and follow up, R. C. Hastings (U.S.A.); Present day organization of the leprosy control program in France, F. Cottenot (France); Current management of leprosy in The Netherlands, D. L. Leiker (The Netherlands); Eradication of tuberculosis and leprosy using chemotherapy, E. Freerksen (W. Germany); Current management of leprosy in Yugoslavia, Amina Korie-Gackie (Yugoslavia); Current management of leprosy in Spain, J. Terencio de Las Aguas (Spain); Drug development, needs and perspectives, J. K. Seydel (W. Germany); Discussion.

IV. Rehabilitation, S. G. Browne (U.K.); Surgical rehabilitation and surgical prevention of leprosy deformities (excluding the face), P. Bourrel (France); Teaching, A. C. McDougall (U.K.); Introduction to immunology in leprosy, A. Bryceson (U.K.); Immunodiagnosis of leprosy, J. L. Stanford (U.K.).

V. Immunotherapy, Marian Ulrich (Venezuela); Vaccination in tuberculosis, IUAT; Vaccination in leprosy, Marian Ulrich (Venezuela); Discussion; Sub-Group meetings on: Therapy, Immunology and Vaccination, Rehabilitation, Training.

Mexico. *V Congreso Internacional de Dermatología Tropical.* Tendrá lugar en la Ciudad de México los días 17 a 20 de oc-

tubre de 1984. Su presidente será el Prof. Dr. Ramón Ruiz-Maldonado. Informes: Apdo. Postal 101-16, México 04530, D.F.

Switzerland. *Council for International Organizations of Medical Sciences (CIOMS) Round Table.* A very successful Round Table was held in Geneva 7-9 December 1983 under the auspices of the CIOMS of which the International Leprosy Association is a founder-member. The international participants were representative of very diverse interests—from research scientists to animal welfare organizations, and from pharmaceutical companies to WHO officials.

The Secretary of the International Leprosy Association (Dr. Stanley Browne) attended both the business sessions of the CIOMS and the Round Table. It was news to many of the participants that leprosy is still indebted to the use of experimentally infected animals for much of the research that has resulted in new knowledge and better treatment regimens. The wide use of the elegant mouse foot pad inoculation technique in proving drug resistance (both secondary and primary) and the presence of persister organisms appears at present to be mandatory: there are no alternative methods. Furthermore, the provision of quantities of *Mycobacterium leprae* from experimentally infected armadillos is crucial for the development of a specific protective vaccine or of immunoprophylactic procedures.

As the result of the papers presented at this Round Table and the ensuing discussions, a set of guidelines will be drawn up and widely distributed to governments, research institutes, animal welfare organizations, etc., to form the basis of practice and, perhaps, legislation.—S. G. Browne

International Federation of Anti-Leprosy Associations (ILEP) working session. The 19th working session of ILEP was held in Berne, 6-9 June 1983. The Medical Commission and the Standing Committee and ad hoc working groups met to consider the following subjects: Leprosy and Primary Health Care; Combined TB/Leprosy programs; Leprosy in Europe; the ILA Congress in New Delhi, February 1984; Public Relations; Health Education and Information;

Training; Social Aspects in the Treatment of Leprosy Sufferers. Some of the topics covered by the Medical Commission included the following: research projects; a form for the yearly reporting of patients on multiple drug regimens; the final draft of a document on the introduction of multiple drug regimens; the ILA Delhi Congress; the recent workshop on Leprosy in Countries with Developed Health Services. The ILEP booklet *Guidelines for the Campaign against Leprosy* is now available in a French translation. A similar booklet on *Leprosy Control and Primary Health Care* is also available in English and French. The Commission also had the opportunity to examine and discuss the very first copies of the INFOLEP booklet on smear examination in leprosy. CIBA-GEIGY of Basle very kindly set up a demonstration which included a wide range of publications and reprints on chemotherapy. [Apart from the production of rifampin (as Rimactane®) and clofazimine (as Lamprene®), readers may be interested to know that this company also markets dapsone (as Servidapson®) in 50 and 100 mg tablets.]

Plan of action for research in the immunology of tuberculosis: Memorandum from a WHO meeting. A meeting was held to outline a comprehensive research plan, based on recent advances in biomedical sciences, for the development of improved methods for the control of tuberculosis. Such a plan requires a stepwise approach. The meeting focused on the initial activities to be carried out and on setting priorities.

In the setting of priorities, the meeting considered not only feasibility and potential benefit of various studies but also activities already being undertaken and their funding. Thus, emphasis was put on the exploitation of new technological approaches, such as recombinant DNA technology, T cell cloning and hybrid-cell methodology, and the production of monoclonal antibodies and immunoregulatory substances. The following subjects were proposed for targeted research: molecular biology, monoclonal antibodies, immunoregulation in human tuberculosis, experimental immunology of tuberculosis, and cloning of mycobacteria.

A strategic plan has been drawn up to indicate the link between the initial activi-

ties and the ultimate goals of the program. It was recommended that a comprehensive research program on the immunology and molecular biology of tuberculosis should be established and, as funds become available, the program should be advertised to the scientific community on a worldwide basis.—Summary from Bull. WHO 61 (1983) 779–785

Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC-5) annual review. The Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC-5) met in Geneva, Switzerland, 21–25 March 1983, for its annual review of all program components. STAC made recommendations for future scientific priorities and activities, recommended a proposed budget for program activities for the 1984–85 biennium and provided preliminary estimates for the 1986–87 biennium.

Steady progress had been made towards development of new tools for control of each of the six diseases of the program and in strengthening research capabilities in developing endemic countries.

STAC noted with satisfaction that preliminary tests to establish safety and sensitizing capacity of a killed *Mycobacterium leprae* preparation would take place in 1983 and, if these proved successful, field trials on a leprosy vaccine should begin in 1984. The Committee recommended that the search for new antileprosy drugs be speeded up, and that a group of consultants be commissioned to review the biochemistry of *M. leprae* and the structure-activity relationships of existing antileprosy drugs. Increased efforts must be made to stimulate industrial and academic interest in leprosy chemotherapy.—Special Programme (TDR) Report No. 20

TDR research proposals' submission dates. Research proposals submitted to the Special Programme for Research and Training in Tropical Diseases are reviewed by the Steering Committees of the various Scientific Working Groups (SWGs). To guarantee review at a given meeting, a proposal must arrive in Geneva two calendar months before the date of the meeting. Proposals re-

ceived later than this may be reviewed at the subsequent meeting of the committee. In preparing a research proposal, it is important to keep in mind that the reports of the relevant SWG should be studied before submission of a proposal, to be certain that the proposed research fits into the plans of the Group.

<u>Steering Committee</u>	<u>1984 Meeting Dates</u>
Immunology of Leprosy (IMMLEP)	19 Feb., 6–7 June
Chemotherapy of Leprosy (THELEP)	25–26 Feb., 17–18 Oct.

Research Capability Strengthening: Individual training grants, which include Research Training Grants (RTGs), Visiting Scientist Grants (VSGs), Re-entry Grants and small grants, are reviewed by the Research Strengthening Team of the Special Programme at monthly meetings. Institution Grants (Long-term and Capital Grants) are reviewed by the Research Strengthening Group once a year. Institutions applying for support for the first time should request detailed information from the Secretariat before submitting their application not later than 1 January of the year in which review is requested.—Special Programme (TDR) Report No. 20

THELEP meeting held in Geneva. The fourth meeting of the Scientific Working Group (SWG) on the Chemotherapy of Leprosy (THELEP) was held in Geneva, 18–19 April 1983, to review new protocols for immunotherapy of lepromatous leprosy and for measuring the impact of intensive chemotherapy in a community on transmission of *Mycobacterium leprae* in that community. In addition, the current status of the THELEP-sponsored controlled trials of combined chemotherapy among patients with lepromatous leprosy was thoroughly reviewed, and the decision was taken to continue for the immediate future the admissions of new patients. Reports of hepatotoxicity of ethionamide and prothionamide, of potential problems of supply of these drugs, and of experimental chemotherapeutic studies of rifampin and an analogue were also heard.—Summary of the Report

Thailand. *Chiang Mai Leprosy Information Center in operation.* Mr. Wolfgang Kampf, the German Leprosy Relief Association (GLRA) representative for Thailand, has reported that the new Leprosy Information Center had been opened at Chiang Mai, a town in northern Thailand. The center had recently been inaugurated in the presence of the Governor of Chiang Mai, the Hon. Chaiya Poonsiriwong. It is supposed to serve as a starting point for the intensification of education on leprosy and general health education.

Chiang Mai Information Center was installed to gradually remove prejudice against leprosy and the people suffering from this disease which still exists, both in the population and with doctors and other medical staff. The center's presence should further encourage leprosy patients not to hide in the face of the first signs of the disease but, instead, to take up treatment at an early stage when the advance of the disease can be stopped with relatively modest medical and financial means. Another aim of the center is to dispense information for medical and paramedical staff of the leprosy control services, in order to coordinate their activities, and to train and advise them in matters of health instruction and health education. Chiang Mai Information Center also acts as an impetus for an intensified engagement of the country's mass media, e.g., newspapers, radio and TV stations, in the campaign against leprosy. Within the scope of leprosy work in Thailand, the GLRA has been cooperating closely with the Hartdegen Fund for Thai Leprosy Patients, which is linked administratively to GLRA.—GLRA news release

75th anniversary for McKean Leprosarium, Chiang Mai. The McKean Leprosarium in Chiang Mai, now formally known as the McKean Rehabilitation Institute, was founded 75 years ago. Mr. Somchai Obboon accepted the appointment of director for a five-year period from 1 April 1983, and the anniversary was celebrated by the initiation of an active education program: the ongoing program of education of patients and their relatives was augmented by attempts to inform the general public about the true facts of leprosy. To this end, the Institute invited more than 1600 students and over 60 teachers from local schools to celebrate with them.

It is believed that the initiation of a new era of understanding between the hospital and the town is an appropriate way to celebrate the anniversary.

The staff has been happy to note that in recent years not only has there been a steady reduction in the number of new cases seen but those who do come present with a shorter history and with less deformity. This encouraging improvement in the incidence of leprosy has enabled the medical staff to develop a general rehabilitation unit and non-leprosy cases are now being accepted for reconstructive surgery, prostheses, and physiotherapy.

Severely crippled patients need to be housed in the central McKean Institute and other arrangements are made for the social rehabilitation of those who can support themselves; there remains a third group of individuals who are partially handicapped and who have nowhere to go.

McKean has for many years had a rehabilitation village called Bang Fuang 60 km north of Chiang Mai, but when the government opened the Tan Dork Mai village nearby most of the inhabitants moved to the new community, leaving a large area of unoccupied land. The abandoned Bang Fuang village is to be used for the rehabilitation of patients who need partial help. New houses are being built for them and they have been encouraged to decide what kind of projects they wish to start (vegetable farming, animal husbandry, fish ponds, etc.). This will not only reduce the cost of caring for people who can provide part of their support through limited work but will also give them a feeling of accomplishment and independence.—John H. S. Pettit

U.S.A. China Fellowship established by Leonard Wood Memorial. The Leonard Wood Memorial (American Leprosy Foundation) has established a training fellowship program with the People's Republic of China. Funded by a grant from the Le Secour Leprae, Canada, the program will offer training to scientists in current clinical techniques and research on leprosy. The training will take place at the Leonard Wood Memorial Laboratory for Leprosy Research in Cebu, Philippines, and the Leonard Wood Memorial Laboratories activities in the United States. The program is offered to

technicians and pathologists/leprologists and will feature clinical, epidemiologic and laboratory techniques. For further information, contact Michael W. Delaney, Executive Director, Leonard Wood Memorial, 11600 Nebel Street, Rockville, MD 20852.—International Health News

Study to assess U.S. capacity for solution of tropical disease concerns. The scale of human suffering and debility caused by tropical diseases is measured in the millions: 1982 WHO estimates of chronic cases include malaria (215), schistosomiasis (200), filariasis (100–300), African trypanosomiasis (45), Chagas' disease (24) and leprosy (at least 5). Most of these numbers represent poor persons who lack adequate water, housing, food and sanitation.

In an attack on this massive problem, an 18-month study—"U.S. Capacity to address Tropical Disease Problems"—begins in January 1984 under auspices of the Board on Science and Technology for International Development (BOSTID) and the Institute of Medicine (IOM) of the National Academy of Sciences. Specific purposes are to 1) examine the current capabilities of centers to conduct research and postgraduate training in tropical medicine and tropical public health, 2) estimate future manpower needs in applied research and training, and 3) assess the adequacy of federal mechanisms for providing research and training support in this field.

Findings of this study may suggest new or expanded federal programs to assure maintenance of a minimum level of applied research and training in tropical medicine and tropical public health, as well as better ways to facilitate cooperative research between U.S. scientists and colleagues in developing countries.

A simple survey or case-study methodology for assessing existing tropical medicine centers will be developed to include explicit criteria for performance in such areas as training American students, providing overseas training opportunities, subsequent career orientation of graduate and training students from developing countries.—International Health News

Treatment clinics for Hansen's disease. With the closing of the U.S. Public Health Service (PHS) hospitals throughout the United States, it became necessary to provide care to HD patients by other means. New clinics were set up to replace PHS fa-

cilities; others have been provided in areas where PHS care had been planned, and others probably will be provided in the future. Below is a current list of federally funded and private sector facilities where HD patients can obtain care in the U.S.

Area	Facility	Address	Project director
Boston	Allston-Brighton Aid and Health Group, Inc.	77 Warren St., Brighton, MA 02135	Dr. Donald Lucas
Carville	National Hansen's Disease Center	Carville, LA 70721	Dr. Robert R. Jacobson
Chicago	Division of Dermatology, Cook County Hospital	1835 W. Harrison St., Chicago, IL 60612	Dr. Sidney Barsky
Chicago	Univ. of Illinois, Dermatology Department	840 S. Wood St., Chicago, IL 60612	Dr. Lawrence Solomon
Honolulu	Hawaii State Health Department	Hale Mohalu at Leahi, 3659 Maunalei Ave., Honolulu, HI 96816	Dr. Erida Reichert
Los Angeles	L.A. County/USC Medical Center, Outpatient Clinic	1175 N. Cummings St., L.A., CA 90033	Dr. Thomas H. Rea
Miami	Tropical Dermatology Clinic	1700 N.W. 10th Ave., Miami, FL 33136	Dr. Francisco Ramos
New Orleans	New Orleans Home and Rehabilitation Center	612 Henry Clay Ave., New Orleans, LA 70118	Dr. Robert Jacobson
Phoenix	Maricopa County Health Department	P.O. Box 2111, Phoenix, AZ 85006	Dr. Steven Englander or Dr. Douglas Campos-Outcalt
Portland	HD Clinic, Department of Dermatology, Oregon Health Sciences Unit	3181 S.W. Sam Jackson Dr., Park Road, Portland, OR 97201	Dr. Frank Parker
San Diego	N. San Diego Health Center, Hansen's Clinic (inpatients referred to University Hospital)	2440 Grand Ave., San Diego, CA 92109	Dr. Antonio Lopez
San Francisco	Seton Medical Center	1900 Sullivan Ave., Daly City, CA 94015	Dr. Robert Gelber
Seattle	Public Health Hospital, Preservation and Development Authority	1131 14th Ave. South, Seattle, WA 98144	Dr. James Harnisch Dermatology Hansen's Clinic
Staten Island, New York	Bayley-Seton Hospital	Bay St. & Vanderbilt Ave., Staten Island, NY 10304	Dr. William Levis