

## CONTROL BY MASSACRE

Apropos of the preceding note, the extremes to which unintelligent fear of leprosy may lead people to go is exemplified by an event noted in the news section of this issue, in which fifty or more lepers were deliberately massacred by the military authorities at Yuengkong, South China. The attitude of the people in that region toward the victims of this disease is notorious and has often been commented on, as in a frank letter by a Chinese published in the *Leper Quarterly* of the Chinese Mission to Lepers in October, 1933.<sup>3</sup> That attitude is not confined to South China, though it is extreme there; some years ago the *China Medical Journal* reported a discussion among authorities of a more northern city as to how the leper problem there should be solved, during which one official proposed that the lepers be loaded on a barge and dumped at sea. Evidently the military authorities at Yeungkong have faith in such drastic methods of leprosy control.

The action that they took can only be deplored by all intelligent people of China, as it is by their friends. That action is utterly contrary to the spirit of those who compose the Chinese Mission to Lepers, which has recently built a fine leprosarium outside of Shanghai and is aiding other institutions elsewhere. An immediate expression of abhorrence was made officially by the Chinese Medical Association, which in its resolution of protest referred to orders

<sup>3</sup>See THE JOURNAL 3 (1935) 366.

relative to the care of lepers that had been issued by the Canton authorities. It did not state, however, that those orders were issued more than a year ago, by a regime which had gone so far as to arrange with a well-known authority in Shanghai to serve as an advisor to them with the intention of taking practical steps toward meeting the leprosy problem in that region—an arrangement that, we are informed, lapsed with a change of political control in Canton.

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