

INTERNATIONAL LEPROSY ASSOCIATION

MINUTES OF THE FIRST GENERAL MEETING

HELD DURING THE CARIO CONGRESS, MARCH 27TH, 1938

The first general meeting of the Association was held on Sunday, March 27th, 1938, with the president, Dr. V. G. Heiser, in the chair. Approximately fifty members were present.

(1) The following resolution was moved and adopted:

The International Leprosy Association approves the actions of the council and officers of the Association since its inauguration in 1931.

(2) The statement of receipts and payments for the year ending 31st December, 1937, and balance sheet on 31st December, 1937, were approved.

(3) The following resolution was moved and adopted:

It is resolved that the excellent report on the INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF LEPROSY, prepared by Dr. Wade, should be published in the JOURNAL.¹

(4) The following resolution of thanks to Dr. Wade and others concerned in the publication of the INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF LEPROSY was unanimously approved:

That the International Leprosy Association expresses its high appreciation of the work of Dr. H. W. Wade as editor of its Journal, the INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF LEPROSY. As first editor of a new periodical, Dr. Wade has faced and overcome great difficulties and is producing a journal which covers the whole field of leprosy and is invaluable to leprosy workers throughout the whole world. *Further*, that an expression of appreciation be extended to Mrs. M. W. Bennett, Assistant Editor, for her work in the publication of the JOURNAL, and to Mr. Rufino Melo, who served as Business Manager from the inception of the JOURNAL to 1935, and to Mr. Pedro M. Chanco, who has served in that capacity since that time. *Finally*, that thanks be extended to the President of the University of the Philippines for generous cooperation in supplying office space.

The chairman appealed strongly to members of the Association for suitable contributions to the JOURNAL, and for aid in obtaining new members.

Dr. Wade thanked the meeting for the encouragement received. "To further the remarks of the President I would like to state that the matter of original articles for the JOURNAL has been cause of some concern from time to time. Before publication was begun it was the fear of some of our advisers that there would not be enough material available to justify

¹ This report will be published in the next issue.

the publication of a special leprosy journal. Two years ago we had a period of apprehension on that score, but last year the support given us was so generous that recently we have received complaints about delays in publication. That feature we hope to overcome, and bespeak continued support of contributors. A problem that is more serious at the present time is that of abstracts of articles published elsewhere. The abstracts section of the *JOURNAL* is considered hardly less important than that of original articles. In the first two years it was obviously weak. Recently it has been more adequate, but that has been attained only by copying many abstracts from other periodicals and preparing a considerable number in our office. We wish to ask the cooperation of the members of the Association to aid our group of Contributing Editors, who represent most parts of the world, in providing adequate abstracts of leprosy articles published elsewhere."

(5) The following resolution of thanks to the Government of Egypt was moved and adopted:

The International Leprosy Association wishes to express its profound thanks to the Government of Egypt, to H.E. The Minister of Public Health, to Prof. Khalil Bey and to Dr. Dalgamouni, for their gracious hospitality and all they have done to make this International Leprosy Congress a success.

(6) The following resolution of thanks to the American Leprosy Foundation was moved and adopted:

This Association wishes to express its gratitude to the American Leprosy Foundation (formerly the Leonard Wood Memorial) for the encouragement given to leprosy workers in many ways; for making possible the publication of the *INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF LEPROSY* through generous grants of money and the services of Dr. Wade. By enabling leprosy workers of various countries to meet in conference, and by appointing workers who through visits to other countries have greatly helped the workers there, the Foundation has rendered very notable service to the cause of leprosy research.

(7) The following resolution of thanks to the British Empire Leprosy Relief Association was moved and adopted:

This general meeting of the International Leprosy Association, convened at Cairo, wishes to place on record its high sense of appreciation of the generous cooperation received from the British Empire Leprosy Relief Association, especially through the services of the General Secretary-Treasurer in the persons of Dr. R. G. Cochrane and Dr. E. Muir, and their secretary, Miss H. Wallich. The labours of these officials in the office of the British Empire Leprosy Relief Association have greatly facilitated and promoted the work of the International Leprosy Association, and this meeting expresses its hope that this happy cooperation may continue in the campaign common to the aims of both organizations.

(8) The following resolution of thanks to the officers of the International Leprosy Association was moved and adopted:

This general meeting wishes to place on record its appreciation of the labours of the officers of the International Leprosy Association since its foundation at the Leonard Wood Memorial Conference, Manila, 1931. It particularly wishes to recognize the work of Dr. V. G. Heiser, as President,

and of the successive Secretary-Treasurers, Dr. R. G. Cochrane and Dr. E. Muir. Though handicapped by geographical difficulties and occupied with their regular work, they have developed and promoted the interests of the Association, and by a wise policy in fostering international cooperation have, with the cordial assistance and skilful organization of the Government of Egypt, brought into existence the present International Congress of Leprosy, which may well mark a signal epoch in the war against this disease.

(9) In view of the fact that the League of Nations has made an international inquiry regarding leprosy and has published the results thereof, Dr. Burnet moved the following resolution, which was adopted:

The Congress approves every effort to unite all activities in the fight against leprosy, and appreciates the work accomplished by the Committee of Hygiene of the League of Nations. It proposes that the president of the International Leprosy Association make contact with the League of Nations with a view to studying the possibilities of cooperation with the League.

(10) Dr. Heiser made a statement regarding the work of the Leonard Wood Memorial. He explained that the original intention was that it should confine its activities to leprosy research in American territory, particularly in the Philippines, but that it now desires to extend this work in the international field in cooperation with, and with the approval of, leprosy workers in general. They have therefore submitted their program to the Association. The following statement [presented by Mr. Perry Burgess, president of the Memorial] was read and the program as laid down therein was approved.

At the time that the Leonard Wood Memorial (American Leprosy Foundation) was created it was expected that its activities in the field of leprosy research would be restricted to American territory, mainly the Philippines. It was soon realized, however, that many of the problems which this world-wide disease presents could not be dealt with adequately in a single area and that they must be approached on a world-wide basis. Consequently, while its principal function has been the support of special work in the Philippines and in medical schools in the United States, the interests of the organization were extended to the international field very early in its active period.

The first effort in that direction was the financing of the "Leonard Wood Memorial Conference on Leprosy" held in Manila in 1931, at which meeting the preliminary organization of the International Leprosy Association was effected. Since that time the Association has been aided continuously by a regular subsidy for the *INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF LEPROSY*, by frequent efforts to increase its membership and the circulation of the *JOURNAL*, and recently in connection with its expenses at the present Congress; and the Memorial is prepared to continue such contributions. It has been able to make certain grants for study fellowships and for small local meetings of leprosy workers, and in certain other ways to aid in foreign countries. For several years it has carried on, in collaboration with the Phil-

ippine Government, intensive epidemiological work at Cebu; it has recently created a department of epidemiology for the purpose of cooperating with other governments and local organizations in other parts of the world in the hope of helping in the stimulation and coordination of such work in different regions.

It is now our belief that we may profitably broaden the scope of the aid extended in the international field, and thereby increase the interest in leprosy work and the effectiveness of workers engaged in it. To this end we propose to provide funds, as they may be available, for aiding promising research activities outside of America where such assistance is needed, and for assisting individual workers to obtain better and broader knowledge of the problem by means of travel fellowships, local or regional group meetings, and visits of our own personnel, and otherwise as may be possible.

An important investigation, that we feel should be undertaken, is into the possibility of partial self-support of leper institutions. If segregation is to play any important part in the eradication of leprosy, then some more practical method must be found other than government or private subsidy. A study of methods of self-support, carried out under the direction of experts, may reveal that it is possible for leprosaria to be sufficiently self-supporting that their maintenance will not be too heavy a burden on government budgets. It is not a part of the policy of the Leonard Wood Memorial to subsidize lepers. Its functions are strictly in the field of research, but I think it would look with favor upon a proposal to support an experimental project in cooperation with some government to ascertain the extent to which a leprosarium can be made self-supporting, with the hope that a method might be found which could be passed on to governments and private agencies interested in this problem.

This proposed extended program not being a part of the original purposes of the Leonard Wood Memorial requires the securing of additional financial support. Before attempting to appeal to the American public for additional funds with which to meet this enlarged program, I hope we may have a formal expression from the International Leprosy Association, as to the importance of such assistance to leprosy work.

(11) The following officers and council members were elected for the ensuing five years:

GENERAL COUNCIL

- President:* Prof. E. Marchoux.
Vice-President, Western Section: Dr. P. L. Baliña.
Vice-President, Eastern Section: Dr. J. Lowe.
General Secretary-Treasurer: Dr. E. Muir.
Councillors: Dr. E. Burnet.
 Dr. V. G. Heiser (*Liaison Officer*).
 Prof. V. Klingmüller.
 Dr. P. H. J. Lampe.
 Dr. B. Moiser.
 Dr. M. Ota.
 Prof. Ed. Rabello.

Dr. J. N. Rodriguez.
 Sir Leonard Rogers.
 Dr. G. A. Ryrie.
 Dr. N. F. Serra.
 Dr. F. Sorel.
 Dr. H. W. Wade (*ex-officio*).
Editorial Board: Dr. H. W. Wade (*Editor*).
 Dr. Jas. L. Maxwell (*Associate Editor*).
 Dr. H. P. Lie (*Associate Editor*).
 Dr. E. Muir (*Associate Editor*).

SECTION COUNCILS

Western Section

Chairman: Dr. P. L. Baliña.
Vice-Chairman: Dr. H. C. de Souza-Araujo.
Sec. Treas: Dr. H. P. Lie.
Councillors: Dr. H. E. Hasseltine.
 Sir Walter Johnson.
 Dr. R. Briercliffe.

Eastern Section

Chairman: Dr. J. Lowe.
Vice-Chairman: Dr. K. Mitsuda.
Sec. Treas: Dr. Jas. L. Maxwell.
Councillors: Dr. R. G. Cochrane.
 Dr. G. Gushue-Taylor.
 Dr. C. J. Austin.



Sketch of Dr. Muir, done at the Congress dinner by Professor Rodenwaldt with burnt matches on a program card.