

## Work of the Indian Council.

The Indian Council of The British Empire Leprosy Relief Association has now completed three years of its life. The first of these years was occupied with the issue of the appeal for funds and in making known the objects for which it was being issued, in order to bring about an enthusiastic response; and also with the formulation of its plans of action.

The appeal which was issued in January, 1925, was closed just a year after, when a sum of over twenty lakhs of rupees had been collected. With regard to its programme of work the Indian Council laid down the following fundamental principles:—

(1) That the aim of the Indian Council is to capitalise the entire collections made and to spend only the revenue thereof.

(2) That the primary obligation of the Indian Council is the effective discharge of its duty to India as a whole.

The collections were accordingly invested in Government Securities of the face value of Rs.20.21,000, calculated to yield a permanent revenue of about Rs.1.21,000 every year.

It was resolved to apply this revenue:—

- (i.) in the promotion of research into the various phases of the disease and into the methods of diagnosis and treatment;
- (ii.) in the training of doctors in the diagnosis and special treatment of leprosy;
- (iii.) in the publication of material with a view to propagate a true knowledge of the disease, its treatment and prevention, both for medical men and the laity;
- (iv.) in the annual subvention of Provincial Committees for the promotion of approved schemes of purely local scope.

In apportioning the revenue as between these various activities it was resolved that the first three items, which were placed in the charge of the Central Committee, should not use up more than 50 per cent., and the entire balance was to be distributed to Provincial Committees in the proportion of their contributions to the capital sum collected. In actual practice, however, the Central Committee has been able to carry on its task in well within 40 per cent. of the revenue, and has distributed the entire balance to the Provincial Committees. By reason of the adherence of the Central and Provincial bodies to their allotted spheres there has been no overlapping of activities, nor any waste of energy; and the pace of progress has been accelerated.

In the matter of research, the Council is acting in close co-operation with the School of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene, Calcutta, where Dr. E. Muir, M.D., F.R.C.S., had been carrying on leprosy research for a considerable time past. The Council has provided Dr. Muir with an assistant by appointing Dr. J. M. Henderson, M.B., Ch.B. (Glasgow), on a salary of Rs. 1200-75-1500, the necessary equipment, and other subordinate staff. In 1927 the Council spent over Rs.18,000/- on research, and since March, 1928, it has taken over the "Rat Leprosy Inquiry" from the Indian Research Fund Association.

A sum of Rs.15,000/- is allotted every year for the training of doctors. They are nominated from various Provinces and Indian States and are deputed to the School of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene, Calcutta, for a fortnight's course of training under Dr. Muir. Four classes are now being held each year, at different times of the year to suit the convenience of the doctors, and up to the end of the year 1927 no less than 184 doctors had been specially trained.

In the matter of propaganda the Council has issued pamphlets and leaflets, etc., on the following subjects, and this literature has mostly been distributed free:—

(1) "Leprosy: Diagnosis, Treatment and Prevention." The 4th edition of this book has just been published.

(2) "Popular Lecture on Leprosy." This book is copiously illustrated, and has a set of slides corresponding to these illustrations. It has gone through two editions within the course of a year.

(3) "What the Public Should Know about Leprosy." This is another illustrated booklet, published in 1926, which has proved so popular that it has become necessary to publish it in ten different vernaculars of the country.

(4) A set of 12 charts, illustrating the different phases of the disease, its prevention and treatment.

(5) "Six Technical Lectures." This book is illustrated with 105 pictures, which are also duplicated in coloured slides. The lectures are intended for doctors wishing to make a further study of leprosy and its special treatment.

(6) A film which depicts, through an interesting story, in a vivid and realistic manner, the causation, treatment and prevention of leprosy. Five copies of this film have been in demand from various parts of the country, and they have all been in constant exhibition for the last three years.

In addition to the above the Indian Council are financing an experimental survey of selected areas in the different parts of the

country to ascertain :—

- (a) The relative incidence of leprosy in different parts of India.
- (b) The classes of people among whom leprosy is most rife.
- (c) By comparison of leprosy with non-leprosy areas, and castes and classes of people among whom leprosy is common with those among whom it is not, the ascertainment of the causes which underlie high incidence.

The survey, in so far as it has been undertaken, has brought valuable information, and it is hoped that it will bring much new data to light which will greatly help the prosecution of the anti-leprosy campaign which has been inaugurated.

BULWANT SINGH PURI, Hon. Secretary, Indian Council.

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### Northern Nigeria—Vom Leper Hospital.

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Dr. P. W. Barnden, of the Sudan United Mission, writes:—

“ In 1925 it was felt that in view of the great success of the new leprosy treatment, we were under moral compulsion to do something to ‘ cleanse the leper.’ An extension of the existing medical site was therefore obtained from the Government, and a Leper Dispensary was erected thereon. The two plots of land are separated by a road and each surrounded by a hedge. Treatment was then begun, and the inevitable happened—people came from a distance, and we had no accommodation. Thus leper quarters became a necessity in 1926, and a reality the following year. They were built to house 12 men, but are full up, and over-flowing into the mortuary! Now the next problem: we have two leper women in-patients and no accommodation. What are we going to do about women lepers?

“ The leper quarters erected consist of a building composed of cubicles with a verandah in front, the whole covering an area of 90 ft. by 25 ft. They include a kitchen, corn grinding room, store, indoor latrine, bathroom, and four rooms for patients. There are also outdoor latrines. All the buildings have stone foundations, ant-proof course of rivetted galvanised iron, cement floors, walls of sundried mud bricks, cement faced externally, match-boarded ceiling, and corrugated iron roofs. The patients all do manual work to pay for board, and their segregation is voluntary.

“ In addition to the dozen in-patients, there are as many out-patients, who are receiving “ Moogrol ” intramuscularly and Sod Gydnocardate pills by mouth.”

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## Leprosy in Japan.

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Several estimates of the number of lepers in Japan have been made at different times. Recently the Central Social Work Association, a Japanese organisation, put the number of lepers in the country at 15,000. Dr. Albert Oltmans, however, who has been for many years engaged in work for Japanese lepers, and who is now General Secretary for Japan for the American Mission to Lepers, entirely disagrees with this, and states that there are probably at least 60,000 lepers in Japan.

Dr. Oltmans says, "Fifteen thousand does not come up by several thousands to the number actually registered with the Government, and those who know believe that the entire number of lepers in Japan is at least double the number registered with the authorities."

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## The Lighter Side.

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Many people do not realise that lepers are still found in all parts of the world, and the following incidents prove this:—

The Secretary's wife was talking to a Scotch woman some time ago, and the latter asked, "What have you been doing in India?"

"We have been looking after lepers," was the reply.

"Are they worth taming?" was the next query, and a startling one.

Recently the Secretary addressed the weekly lunch of the Portsmouth Rotary Club. A doctor rose at the close of the address to propose a vote of thanks, and said that just before he came in to lunch he met, at his Club, an elderly retired Indian Colonel, and invited him to come to the lunch, saying "The speaker has a subject that ought to interest you."

"What is he talking about?"

"About lepers."

"Oh! I've shot hundreds of them," said the Colonel.

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## Zanzibar's Grateful Lepers.

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The following comes from the *Zanzibar Official Gazette* :—

“ Very few people have heard of Funzi. It is a small island near Zanzibar and its sole population consists of 25 lepers. Recently the small European community in Zanzibar organised a charity concert and they devoted part of the proceeds to the afflicted of Funzi. They were well rewarded. Two of the lepers were appointed by their fellows to give suitable thanks and their letters will long be preserved in Zanzibar. One wrote : ‘ We pray that you may long be filled with confidence and love continually to be mindful of us who are infirm and that the dominion of the English may daily continue in might no less than the lords of the Government. For in olden times there was none to regard persons like ourselves, but now the majesty of England takes note of us and loves us . . . God protect the English rule.’ The second letter, no less quaint, began with the words ‘ Greetings, most Potent,’ and was signed ‘ The Sick of Funzi.’ ”

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## Literature.

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“ **Leprosy** : Abstract Reviews of Current Literature.” This is a reprint of an excellent article which appeared in June issue of *The Prescriber*. It is now being issued in pamphlet form by the Association, and any reader not receiving a copy is asked to write to the Secretary and ask for one.

Various pamphlets, a list of which was given in No. 1 of **LEPROSY NOTES** have been issued by the Association, and others will be issued as time passes. Anyone wishing to receive the literature issued is requested to send his name and full postal address to The Secretary, The British Empire Leprosy Relief Association, 24, Cavendish Square, London, W.1.