

# *Leprosy Notes.*

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## Editorial Jottings.

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### To Rid the Empire of Leprosy.

#### MAKING PROGRESS.

Three things are necessary if the object of the Association's work is to be achieved:—

- (1) A treatment for the disease which is successful
  - (2) Right policies and methods, so as to secure the widest possible use of the treatment
  - (3) The right people to do the actual work.
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These three points are well illustrated in the articles which we publish in this number of "*Leprosy Notes.*"

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Dr. R. Cochrane, Sir Leonard Rogers and Dr. Isabel Kerr all deal with the subject of the treatment of the disease, and readers will be encouraged to note the hopefulness expressed in these and other articles.

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The question of the policy to be adopted in dealing with leprosy in each part of the Empire is receiving careful consideration in all our Colonies and Protectorates, etc., and Dr. Shircore's article will be read with interest. The Tanganyika Government is giving more and more attention to the question of enlarging existing Treatment Centres for lepers, and the Association is co-operating by providing funds for buildings at a number of centres where new work is being developed.

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The work done at a W. African Treatment Centre is dealt with by Dr. A. B. Macdonald, who is doing splendid service in Southern Nigeria. We trust that when he returns he will be able to still further develop the work at Itu, although even now more lepers are being treated there than at any other centre in W. Africa.

Dr. Birkenstock has a really good Treatment Centre in S. Nyasaland, indeed it is the best in the Protectorate, and is at present not able to take in and treat all the lepers who seek admission. He writes enthusiastically of the prospects.

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It is not always realised how much Nurses, under the supervision of a doctor, can do for lepers, and Nurse Oborn's article shows how much is possible.

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That missionaries are doing and can do a great deal for lepers is well known to all who have any experience of this particular department of medical work, and the story of the Leper Hospital at Dichpali is well told by the Rev. George Kerr. This hospital is probably the best Leprosy Hospital in India.

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In some parts of the Empire there are very real difficulties to be met in dealing with leprosy, and perhaps in no part are these greater than in South Africa. Under Dr. Mitchell's guidance, however, good progress is being made, but compulsory segregation has been in force in South Africa for many years, and creates many difficulties, particularly that of getting early cases to come for treatment. I visited six of the Institutions for lepers in the Union last year, and was much impressed by a great deal of what I saw. I consider that the Institution at Emjanyana is splendidly conducted by Mr. J. A. Macdonald, and we are fortunate in having a good account of this piece of work, written by Dr. Neil Macvicar.

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The United States has always been well to the fore in dealing with the question of leprosy, and every reader knows of the wonderful work commenced by the U.S. Government in the Philippine Islands. Not so many, however, know about the National Leprosarium at Carville, and we are indebted to Dr. O. E. Denny for writing about this institution, of which he has charge.

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It has been suggested that readers may wish to ask questions and seek advice on their problems, and we shall be glad to do what we can to secure the best answers to any questions submitted, and questions and answers, if of general interest, will be published in "Leprosy Notes."

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F.O.

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