

Leprosy Notes.

No. 6.

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Editorial Note.

It is with very sincere regret that for the last time I write as Editor of LEPROSY NOTES. Since the formation of The British Empire Leprosy Relief Association, six years ago, it has been my privilege to be the Secretary, and the work has gradually developed until there are branches of the Association, with influential Committees, or representatives of the Association, in almost all parts of the Empire where leprosy is at all prevalent.

The work has been made very much easier by the help that has always been given by those whom, whether connected with the Government or Missionary Societies, I have met or with whom I have corresponded, in all parts of the Empire. I take this opportunity of very warmly thanking all those who have helped me, in ways too innumerable to mention. I shall never forget the many kindnesses I have received from leprosy workers in every part of the Empire that I have visited.

LEPROSY NOTES will in future be edited by Dr. R. G. Cochrane, who succeeds me as Secretary of the Association, and while expressing my great indebtedness to all those who have been my helpers in commencing the publication, and I am very grateful indeed to those who have contributed articles, I should especially like to mention Mr. F. H. Brown, C.I.E., a member of the Executive Committee of the Association, and on the staff of *The Times*, for his invaluable advice, and kindly criticism.

I think it should be clearly stated that my interest in the work of the Association has not in any way diminished, indeed it is only because I feel that it is in the highest interests of the work of the Association that a medical man should be the Secretary, that I have felt impelled to resign. I am more than ever convinced that the object of the Association can be achieved if those who are able to do anything will wholeheartedly tackle the part of the work that lies to their hand.

The British Empire Leprosy Relief Association.

APPOINTMENT OF NEW SECRETARY.

In 1927 Mr. Oldrieve, the Secretary of the Association, completed a series of visits, made in the interests of the work of the Association, to those parts of the Empire where leprosy is most prevalent, and as a result of the work that has been commenced since the formation of the Association, leprosy relief measures are being undertaken in a systematic way in every part of the Empire where leprosy is at all prevalent. Soon after his return from his last tour Mr. Oldrieve informed the Committee that he wished to be relieved of his work as Secretary of the Association as soon as a successor could be found, as he strongly felt that the next official of the Association to visit the Colonies, etc., should be a medical man, who was an expert in the treatment of the disease. The Committee reluctantly accepted this view, and decided to approach Dr. R. G. Cochrane with an invitation to succeed Mr. Oldrieve.

Dr. Cochrane obtained his diploma of M.R.C.S. (Eng.), L.R.C.P. (Lond.), in January, 1924, graduated at the University of Glasgow M.B., Ch.B. (with Commendation), in March, 1924, and in July of the same year, he obtained the diploma of D.T.M. & H.

In August, 1924, Dr. Cochrane was appointed Medical Secretary to The Mission to Lepers and proceeded to India, where he established his headquarters at India's largest Leper Asylum at Purulia, Bengal. From this centre, and till March, 1926, he visited practically all the Leper Institutions in India and Burma, acting as Adviser to The Mission to Lepers with regard to the medical treatment of the lepers. He later visited Siam, Federated Malay States, Borneo, and the Philippine Islands, studying the leper work being carried on in all those countries.

Dr. Cochrane returned to England later in April, and obtained his M.R.C.P. (Lond.), in April, 1927. In August of that year, he left England and visited Japan and Korea in order to see the leprosy work in those countries. He arrived in India in December 1927, and since then he has been in charge of the medical work at the Leper Institution at Bankura, Bengal, at the same time acting as Medical Adviser to The Mission to Lepers. He obtained his M.D. (Glasgow) in January, 1928. Dr. Cochrane is, therefore, well qualified, both by training and from his knowledge of leprosy work as it is being carried on in almost all parts of the World, to become the Secretary of the Association. Mr. Oldrieve is leaving England at the end of June to settle in Southern Rhodesia, and all communications in future should be addressed to Dr. Cochrane, at 24, Cavendish Square, London, W.1.