

Editorial.

ON account of the importance of the recent International Conference held under the auspices of the Leonard Wood Memorial for the Eradication of Leprosy, it was felt that it would be profitable to devote most of this number of the REVIEW to matters concerning this gathering. We therefore feel certain that our contributors will forgive us for holding over their articles until the next issue. The Editor is very grateful to all who have so generously contributed to the pages of the REVIEW, and we would urge that the success of this journal depends on the constant supply of articles. While articles of a practical nature are most welcomed, those of a descriptive or topical nature will be gladly considered. In view of the expected publication of the International Journal of Leprosy in the near future it might be well to state that LEPROSY REVIEW endeavours to meet the need of a quarterly periodical of a practical nature dealing with aspects of the subject which will interest and instruct the worker who wishes to be kept up to date with the latest developments; it does not attempt to deal with the highly technical or scientific sides. This want, we feel sure, will be filled by the proposed quarterly of the International Leprosy Association.

In this number in addition to the valuable Review of the Report of the Manila Conference by Dr. T. F. G. Mayer, we are publishing a paper by Sir Leonard Rogers, which, for lack of space, has unfortunately had to be abridged. This paper represents Sir Leonard's considered views, and we are certain that it will be welcomed by a large circle of workers. While in this paper compulsory segregation in backward and primitive countries is condemned, and we think rightly, Sir Leonard is careful to point out that local conditions vary to such an extent that it may be impossible at present entirely to eliminate compulsion. Further, Sir Leonard mentions that compulsion may be a useful measure for the purpose of bringing pressure to bear on those early cases who refuse to attend for regular treatment, and on open cases who are unable or unwilling to take the necessary precautions.

It has more than once been stressed in this journal that while the ideal system is one which treats closed cases under a suitable dispensary system, and open cases under some sort of isolation, either home or institutional, we have not failed to point out that local conditions, and the state of public opinion, may cause some modification of the general

principle, and that the existing systems have to be modified rather than abolished. The ideal is to bring as many cases as possible under treatment and, if necessary, segregation, with the minimum amount of cost. It is only by a careful study of epidemiology and local conditions that a system can be devised in any country which will combine the maximum degree of efficiency with the minimum amount of expenditure. We trust that the section of the Report on the Manila Conference on Epidemiology will be carefully studied and acted upon, for, in no field is there more need for careful and prolonged study, and we feel sure that the stress laid on this aspect of leprosy work will stimulate further researches in the epidemiology of the disease, and will result in valuable contributions to our only too scanty knowledge of the etiology of the disease.

As the ethyl esters are being used to a great extent in the intradermal method of treatment, the method of preparation is described. The cold and hot processes are so simple, and the apparatus required uncomplicated, that it is hoped that the account of the manufacture of the esters will encourage those who wish to use them to make them locally. The intradermal method of injection is being very widely used, and is a distinct help in clearing up skin lesions. We trust workers will try out this method, and should they wish a supply of special needles they can be had either through the Association or directly from J. Gardner and Son of Edinburgh. There has been a great deal of discussion as to the action of the hydnocarpus preparations; to what extent they act only by virtue of their irritant affect on tissue cannot at present be estimated. It is felt by many workers, however, that the hydnocarpus group of remedies have in addition some special action on the processes of the disease.

While we have had to hold over much material, it was felt that the continuation of the valuable and instructive article by Dr. Manson-Bahr should be published in this issue, and we are sure that it will be of very great assistance to workers in the field. It is hoped to deal occasionally in the REVIEW with the treatment of other diseases which workers in leprosy may be called upon to manage. As far as possible, well known authorities will be asked to help us in this matter, so that those in the field may have authoritative guidance as to the treatment of the diseases which frequently complicate and make the healing of leprosy such a difficult problem.