

Change of Secretaries.

The British Empire Leprosy Relief Association has been particularly fortunate in the key appointment of secretary. The good work of Mr. Oldrieve from 1923 to 1929 in organizing the early work has recently been described in my article on the first decade of the Association in Vol. V, 1934, of this Review, together with the work of our first whole time Medical Secretary, Dr. Cochrane, from 1929 to 1934, who is now leaving us to take up field work as medical officer in charge of the Lady Willingdon Leprosy Colony in Madras. In this province our Indian Council is doing more work than in any other area in treating cases at the very numerous clinics, as described in a recent issue of this journal. In addition to his good work during his extensive tours in Africa, India and Ceylon, already described in the article mentioned above, Dr. Cochrane has rendered a great service by his recent tour in the West Indies and British Guiana, and the Colonial Office has taken up the consideration of his many valuable suggestions for organising work in those colonies with a view to reducing and eventually stamping out leprosy. Dr. Cochrane was unfortunate enough to be taken ill recently and to have to undergo an operation, from which he is making a good recovery, and he hopes to be able to sail for India without delay. The best wishes of all his colleagues will go with him in his new sphere of work, which will afford him better opportunities of making a further mark in leprosy work than he can do without extensive clinical experience of the disease.

We are still more fortunate in being able to obtain the invaluable services of one of the foremost leprosy research workers in the world in Dr. E. Muir, who has been whole time leprosy research worker in the Calcutta School of Tropical Medicine ever since its foundation in 1920, working under the endowment fund I raised, subsequently supplemented by the successful appeal of Lord Reading, when Viceroy of India, for our Indian Council. Dr. Muir was the first to confirm my discovery that the injection of soluble preparations of chaulmoogra and hydnocarpus oil is a far more effective method of treatment of leprosy than the former oral administration of the nauseating oils themselves, and I was fortunate indeed in getting him to continue my researches under much more favourable conditions when I had to retire from the Indian Medical Service under the age rules just when the Calcutta laboratories were ready to start

work. His width of view, insight and patient work have resulted in far reaching advances, which have been of incalculable value in placing the dreaded leprosy within the pale of preventable and curable diseases, using the latter term in its popular sense. The use of creosoted pure hydnocarpus oil and ethyl esters prepared by his simple method have furnished effective treatments at a cost within the reach of all. The importance of the stress he has laid on the treatment of all complicating debilitating diseases to increase the resisting powers of the patients is universally recognised. The surveys he organized throughout India have revealed the true nature and extent of the leprosy problem and enabled hundreds of leprosy clinics to be opened to treat some 100,000 cases a year, mostly in an early stage, at a minimum cost; and this in turn has led to the recent development of following up the patients to their houses and arranging for the home isolation of the infective cases in order to strike at the root of the problem by stopping new infections. Dr. Muir has completed over 30 years' service in Palestine and India, where he laboured as one of the most successful and hard working of medical missionaries up to 1920. Our Association is very fortunate in being able to make use of his unrivalled experience in the cause that he has so much at heart.

L. ROGERS.