

Editorial

We draw the attention of our readers to the change of address indicated on the cover. During recent years the British Empire Leprosy Relief Association has expanded considerably in its scope and in the staff necessary to deal with its many activities. Larger quarters were therefore necessary, and suitable rooms have been found almost next door to our old office, at 115 Baker Street.

The Medical Secretary of the Association has, during the last few months, been making an extensive tour of various countries, especially those of British East Africa. He visited Malta, Egypt, the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan, Belgian Congo, Uganda, Kenya, Tanganyika, Zanzibar, Aden, Somaliland and Palestine. In each of these countries he had an opportunity of studying the leprosy problem in consultation with the medical authorities. The next issue of the *Leprosy Review* will be a special East African number, in which will be embodied the reports prepared during this tour.

In our last issue we gave a short report of the International Congress of Leprosy held in Cairo last March. We now publish the reports of the four subcommittees, which deal with the aspects of leprosy at present regarded as the most urgently requiring clarification and agreement. Classification is a most difficult subject in a disease like leprosy, with its protean forms and manifestations. During the last seven years a tremendous amount of work has been done on this subject; and whether we consider the new classification entirely satisfactory or not, it must be acknowledged that a distinct advance has been made. We have now an authoritative classification which can be used throughout the world, and which should at least diminish the confusion that has often surrounded otherwise valuable literature. The most important changes are the adoption of the word "lepromatous" in place of cutaneous, and the definite placing of leprides and other lesions of the so-called tuberculoid type. The classification has been made, as far as possible, practicable for all kinds of leprosy workers. The basic classification is as simple as it can be. Some of the subclassifications are more complicated, but these are intended more for the use of experts who are in a position to make more detailed study of the disease.

We publish in this number the second half of an article on *Domesticating Anti-leptic Species in Brasil*. The fact that chaulmoogra oil still holds first place in the treatment of leprosy in spite of the almost daily "cures" that are lauded in the public press, is a matter of significance. The value of chaulmoogra has increased in proportion as a pure non-irritating oil has become available; and this article is a valuable contribution towards the methods necessary for obtaining such oil.