

REPORTS.

Annual Report for 1940 of Indian Council of B.E.L.R.A.

This full report records that the war had so far had only a limited influence on anti-leprosy work in India. The number of leprosy clinics is fairly stationary, although a few new centres have been opened in several provinces. A few more leprosy institutions for in-patients have been opened and a colony established by the Asansol Leprosy Relief Association. Another feature is the increase in the amount of accurate survey work carried out, and the Indian Research Fund Association has appointed a committee to draw up proposals for such surveys to enable the incidence of leprosy in one part of India to be compared with that in another area. The usual post graduate leprosy courses at the School of Tropical Medicine, Calcutta, were attended by 52 doctors from different parts of India, and special courses were also organised in Bengal and the Central Provinces with 19 and 37 attendances respectively.

The Leprosy Research Department of the School of Tropical Medicine, Calcutta, has published work on the action of methylene blue in the leprosy organism, leprosy and dermal leishmaniasis, negative results of attempts to infect Syrian hamsters with human leprosy, an epidemiological study in North Bengal, the preservative effect of cresote on hydnocarpus oil, and studies of the lepromin test. Work is also being done on the seasonal variations in leprosy, the course of the disease, the immunological significance of the lepromin test, the histology of different types of leprosy lesions and the possible bactericidal action of sulphonamide preparations on the bacillus of rat leprosy. Dr. Santra is now devoting most of his time to the study of regional variations in leprosy and their causation. The results of epidemiological inquiries in four areas, shown in the following table, illustrate the great variations in the proportion of different types of leprosy in different regions, the explanation of which is not at present known.

Country.	Area.	Popula- tion exam- ined.	Incidence	Per- centage of L. cases.	Per- centage of cases below 15.	Author.
India ...	Santalpur (Bengal)	3,600	7.4%	4.1%	17%	Lowe & Santra
Do. ...	Bankura (W. Ben- gal)	10,011	4.38%	18%	26%	Lowe
Do. ...	Saidapet (Madras)	2,040	6.7%	25%	49%	Cochrane
Do. ...	Madras Rural area)	2,007	4.3%	25%	36%	Cochrane

Report of the Director of Medical Services for the Year 1939
(Hongkong).

Neither the title page nor the introductory paragraphs of this report state the country to which it refers, but further search reveals that it relates to Hongkong. Leprosy is dealt with briefly on page 21 and records that the former smallpox hospital was acquired by the Government in 1938 for the accommodation of lepers. At the end of 1938 133 patients remained, and in 1939 295 were admitted, 165 were transferred to Sheklunl, Swatow and Pakhoi, 67 escaped, 21 died, 3 were discharged and 172 remained at the end of 1939. A barbed wire fence patrolled by police has now been provided. Two male and one female patient have been chosen as paid heads to maintain discipline and cleanliness with good results. The conditions of life have been greatly improved by the provision of treatment, beds; a balanced diet, games, newspapers, etc., and wandering in the streets of possibly dangerous lepers is prevented.

Annual Report of the Dichpali Leprosy Hospital for the year 1939-40.

The admissions numbered 695. The discharges included 71 symptom free, 242 disease stationary and non-infective, 200 improved but left before completion of treatment, 132 discharged otherwise and 12 died; a total of 657. The cases treated during the year numbered 1,452 and 795 remained at the end of the year. Applicants who had to be refused admission numbered 712. The war, epidemics and famine made things difficult and raised the cost of maintenance. The cases refused admission were mostly referred for treatment to centres near their homes. The usual course of instruction on leprosy for the students of the Hyderabad Osmania Medical College aroused keen interest. Land cultivation to provide food and educational work were other important features of this flourishing and successful leprosy institution.