

**Annual Report of the Medical Department, Tanganyika, for 1953.**

The report mentions that cases of leprosy in government and missionary institutions at the end of 1953 numbered 976 and 3,792 respectively. The Interterritorial Leprologist has estimated that there are 100,000 cases of active infection. In order to make the best possible use of valuable accommodation in leprosaria, the

burnt out or untreatable cases are being discharged to their homes to make room for open infectious cases. There are 17 leprosaria in Tanganyika, where specific anti-leprosy treatment is given. Five of these are administered by government and the other twelve by missions. The BELRA staff work at the two principal government leprosaria at Makete and Chazi, and at two mission stations, Mngehe and Lulindi. The two largest leprosaria are those run by the Benedictine Mission at Perambho and Ndanda.

The Medical Department employed two medical officers on whole-time leprosy duties during 1953. Increasing emphasis is being given to encourage the development of out-patient leprosy services. The most notable progress in the development of out-patient facilities was in the Tanga District. Here to begin with few patients attended, as they were afraid they would be interned in the government leprosarium. When it became clear that sulphone treatment was effective, there was a dramatic increase in the number of patients, many of them coming from places where it had not been known formerly. There seems to be a widely held belief that a person suffering from leprosy should eat only such food as decayed meat, porridge made from old grain, and wild vegetables. Fresh corn as well as sugar and oil are denied him, and this abstinence frequently causes malnutrition. The progress of the work has been greatly helped by the interest and assistance of nursing sisters employed by various sisal estates; also African dressers from various native authority dispensaries assist in bringing in new patients. By the end of the year approximately a thousand patients were attending for treatment.