

## REPORTS

**Annual Report, 1957, Leprosy Control, Onitsha Area of E. Nigeria**

The Area Superintendent, Dr. A. S. Garrett, reports that the new features of the year at Oji River were physiotherapy on an organized basis, the beginning of the building of a School for the Blind, and the beginning of a new orthopaedic block. Restorative surgery for deformities of hands and feet has been carried on by Dr. Garrett, and Dr. Price, a new orthopaedic surgeon, was expected in December, so this work is likely to grow greatly. In collaboration with Dr. Davey of Uzuakoli, trials of new drugs have been pursued, chiefly of DPT, which has many good points. Discharges of patients on arrest of their disease have remained at an appreciable level. In buildings, more staff houses are needed, and repairs to patients' houses and waterworks. Electric power is available not far away and still needs the connection. In staff Dr. K. M. Ellis has been lost on her marriage and a new medical officer, Dr. W. F. Ross has arrived. Training continues of Leprosy Inspectors and Medical Field Unit Assistants. Mr. C. O. Onyia, the laboratory technician, has received a course of training in BCG inoculation, and the use of this is now possible. Of Dispensary Attendants 13 have been trained in simple leprosy treatment. Mr. Savory and Miss Smith have conducted a physiotherapy course. In the *District Work* there has been a large and rapid drop in the total of patients in the south of the province, but the north lags behind, in the Nsukka division particularly. In an effort to remedy this more treatment centres are being opened in Nsukka area and also the Niger flood area. There is a scattered population and poor communications and patients hang back from treatment. Much persuasion and explanation are still needed. Even in the south, one case was found who must have avoided treatment for 8 years. As Rural Health Centres are further developed more existing geographical gaps will be covered.

**Rajah Sir Charles Brooke Memorial Settlement, Kuching, Sarawak**

By kind permission of Dr. W. Glyn Evans, Director of Medical Services, Mr. Hamish Macgregor has forwarded an excellent series of statistical tables on the work of this leprosarium in 1957 and before. During the years 1950 to 1956 admissions were 449, or an average intake rate of 64 p.a. Discharges were 385, or an average rate of 55 p.a. Deaths were 91 or an average death rate of 13 p.a. Of the 867 patients resident in the leprosarium during the period, 44.5% have been discharged, 10.5% have died, and 2% have left of their own accord. Types of leprosy were, L 62%, I 24%, and T 14%. Malays and Chinese had a higher lepromatous rate and Land Dayaks a lower lepromatous rate than the average for

the area. The child rate is 19% of all cases, and again there are racial group variations, with the Malays showing the highest child rate of 28%. The sex rate is 77% for males; children have a 73% male sex rate. A study of causal contacts of 400 cases showed close or very close contact in 125 and intermittent contact in 67; for the remaining 208 cases there was no certainty. Of the known contacts members of family were the most incriminated.

### **Leprosy in Cyprus**

Dr. J. H. C. Clarke, Director of Medical Services, has provided the following information. Restrictive legislation was repealed in 1957. Outpatient treatment had been introduced in 1952 and voluntary admission to the St. Charalambos Home, which has a beautiful situation and is provided with a hospital, treatment clinic, bath houses, club, store, and bungalow. This Home now has 42 male and 21 female inpatients, who keep active and cheerful. Notifications of leprosy were 11 in 1953, 9 in 1954, 10 in 1955, 1 in 1956, 9 in 1957. Besides the 63 inpatients there are now 67 outpatients, and 53 patients discharged under observation. Child cases have not been seen for many years, and it seems that leprosy is dying out. The existing patients are cooperative and the community at large has now a more enlightened attitude towards leprosy.