

REPORT

Leprosy News from Formosa. A Review of the Annual Report of the Taiwan Leprosy Relief Association for 1959. By Dr. N. D. FRASER, Medical Secretary of the Mission to Lepers, London.

Under the title "Closed and Open Gates", and with a cover illustration by the noted Formosan artist, Mr. Ran In Ting, interpreting the story of "The Rich Man and Lazarus in a Chinese setting", Dr. Hugh Macmillan, president of the Taiwan Leprosy Relief Association, has reviewed the work undertaken by those interested in the problem of leprosy in Taiwan.

Real encouragement has been brought to all members of the association by the coming to the island of two devoted and talented leaders. The first is Dr. Kazuo Saikawa of the Nagashima Aiseien in Japan who is an experienced plastic surgeon. He spent five months, from January to June 1959, visiting the Government Loseng Leprosarium, the Happy Mount Colony and a number of clinics. At the Government Leprosarium he performed plastic and orthopaedic operations to demonstrate what can be done to correct deformities and disabilities. Since his return to Japan Dr. Saikawa has offered his services as a Medical Missionary to Taiwan, and he is being sponsored by the Evangelistic Committee of the Church of Christ in Japan. Dr. Saikawa expects to take up residence along with his wife and family in Tainan early in 1960.

The second is Dr. Myles E. Efteland who, with his wife and family, arrived during the summer from the U.S.A. He has been seconded by his Lutheran Mission to work as Medical Director of the Taiwan Leprosy Relief Association and will help to develop and expand the work that is already being done.

Ma-kung Clinic in the Pescadores Islands. Miss Marjorie Bly, R.N., reports on the opening of the Special Skin Clinic for victims of leprosy in the new Provisional Hospital. This is a significant step towards the integration of leprosy into the general medical programme which might well be noted in other parts of the world. It does not mean however that all fears and superstitious ideas have been forgotten for Miss Bly writes "I still recall with a shudder the story of our grandpa patient of 86 years of age. He was threatened with burial alive because it was feared that he might die a natural death. Such an event would mean that the village people would not be able to cook any food for seven days at least, lest the spirit follow the smoke back to the fire and rice-kettle and remain in the village."

Tainan and Chia-yi Clinics. Miss Ruth Duncan, R.N., reports on the rapid growth of these two clinics; 360 patients have been registered, and in one third of them clinical resolution has taken place; many have greatly improved; and much suffering has been relieved. In addition a Rehabilitation Farm has been established, and the first

cottage for four men completed. Peanut, sesame and cotton crops have been raised and "the venture has thus far been a success".

Kaohsiung Clinic. The Kaohsiung Clinic begun by Dr. Bjorgas has registered 410 patients since it was first opened. The work is being carried on by Dr. Kristoffer Fotland with a team of Formosan assistants during Dr. and Mrs. Bjorgas' leave.

Mackay Memorial Hospital. This clinic was begun by the pioneer of leprosy work in Formosa, the late Dr. Gushue Taylor, more than 30 years ago. Dr. Y. F. Chao is now in charge and has a register of 90 patients. During the past four years nine patients have become clinically and bacteriologically negative; 17 have shown marked improvement; 38 minimal improvement, and seven have shown no progress.

The Happy Mount Colony, established about 30 years ago by Dr. Gushue Taylor, continues to make a distinctive contribution to the work by the giving of exemplary treatment under very good living conditions; the venture has been marked by a rapid turnover of patients. Dr. Dorothy Harris and Miss Leicester presented 14 patients for discharge at a special Christmas service. A similar number was discharged in 1958.

At the *Provincial Loseng Leprosarium,* Dr. T. Y. Chen, the Superintendent, reports at the end of the year a total of 1,016 patients. 88 patients became symptom-free during the year. There were 102 new admissions. During the past five years a total of 171 patients have been discharged and rehabilitated. Occupational therapy is becoming an important feature and includes brickmaking, vegetable and fruit growing, and care of livestock. Educational and recreational activities have received special attention with a view to raising the standards of the institution.

The Holy Hope Church records a congregation of 300 patients and exercises a great influence in the life of the leprosarium.

Scientific studies, and the teaching of medical students.

Dr. Shen-ho Lai is continuing his studies on the transmission of leprosy, and on the distribution of the disease throughout the island. He also directs courses of lectures for medical students.

Rehabilitation. Mr. K. Brunner, of Hwalien, reports on steps taken to secure the rehabilitation of two men and two girls from the Happy Mount Colony. Mr. N. has been put in charge of a chicken farm and agricultural work. Mr. L. is working as gardener. "They are now cured of the disease and are finding their way back into ordinary life" writes Mr. Brunner. "Miss T. and Miss C. supervise embroidery and knitting in the Blind Girls Trade School."