

The 8th International Congress of Leprosy *Rio De Janeiro Sept. 1963*

The editor of *Leprosy Review* had a 'ringside seat' at this Congress, and in addition to being Medical Secretary of the British Leprosy Relief Association and thus being able to represent that Association at the Congress, is Secretary-Treasurer of the International Leprosy Association which call the Congress and takes part in its organization, and the Secretary-Treasurer having personally attended the Congress and being Editor of *Leprosy Review*, offers to the readers of *Leprosy Review* this personal reporting of it in the form of a Supplement to the January issue.

It is perhaps hardly necessary to point out the importance of the Congresses of Leprology. They are held only at intervals of five years, the previous ones being:

- [1] Berlin, 1897; [2] Bergen, 1909; [3] Strasbourg, 1933;
- [4] Cairo, 1938; [5] Havana, 1948; [6] Madrid, 1953
- [7] Tokyo, 1958;

and are attended by the leprologists of the world and scientists from other fields of work which touch on leprology, and by all who are genuinely interested in this difficult department of human activity, those who are able to come. Progress in science and technique is reviewed, and the path for the future is indicated. No one in the world can afford to ignore the international congresses of leprology, for leprosy occurs in the greater part of the known world, and is unconquered yet.

The spirit of the Rio Congress, 1963, might be said to be a choice between two attitudes to leprosy: (1) leprosy is with us yet and always will be with us; (2) leprosy can be got rid of in our own lifetime if only we used and fully applied such knowledge as has been revealed to us especially since 1943. The choice inclines strongly to the second.

The 8th International Congress of Leprology was held at Rio de Janeiro, 12-20 September, 1963, at the invitation of the Government of Brazil. As hosts to the Congress they provided the venue and considerable hospitality. They arranged an organizing committee called COCIL, headed by DR. FAUSTO GAYOSO CASTELO BRANCO as President, and DR. ORESTES DINIZ as General Secretary. The International Leprosy Association was represented by the Secretary-Treasurer (your editor) and a secretariat of two, and it must be remembered that most 'congresistas' or members attending the Congress were also members of the International Leprosy Association and in particular 13 members of the Council of that Association attended the Congress.

As for the 8th Congress, 400 attended, and it is worthwhile stating the countries or places from which they came. They were: Africa S.W., Angola, Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Bolivia, Brazil, Burma, Cameroun, Canada, Colombia, Congo, Cuba, Denmark, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia,

Fiji, France, Germany, Gambia, Ghana, Hong Kong, India, Italy, Israel, Jamaica, Japan, Korea, Malaya, Mali; Malta, Morocco, Martinique, Mexico, Nigeria, New Guinea, Netherlands, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Portugal, Scotland, Senegal, Spain, Switzerland, Taiwan, Tanganyika, Thailand, Uruguay, United States of America, United Kingdom, Vietnam S., Venezuela, West Indies.

In addition to the main financial burden borne by Brazil, it is gratefully recorded that financial aid was given by various organizations who had the vision and the kindness to do it, such as the British Leprosy Relief Association, which gave £700 towards the fares and expenses of three members of the secretariat going to the Congress, plus the fare and expenses of one scientist of repute who had to attend as member of a scientific committee of the Congress (£300); CIOMS who contributed £250 and also have promised \$300 (in Cruzeiros); Messrs. Geistlich & Sons Ltd., Switzerland, who gave £50. Many other organizations have also helped members to go to the Congress and in various ways. Important changes fall to be recorded in the high officials of the International Leprosy Association. These changes were approved at the Congress, and bear on the future of all international leprosy congresses. The ILA is the body who calls them, in conjunction with a host government who offers to hold the international congress in its territory, and in Brazil, as in all previous congresses, bears the major part of the financial burden.

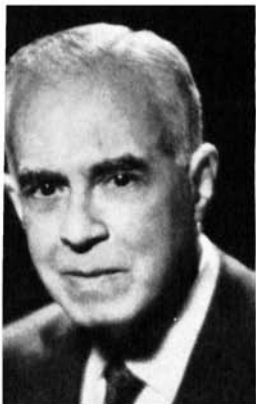
The President of ILA at the time of the Brazil Congress in the event was not able to attend, and for medical reasons resigned his high office. He was DR. H. W. WADE, of USA, now resident in Culion, Philippines, who had been President for 17 years, and Editor of the International Journal of Leprosy for over 30 years. In fact the Secretary-Treasurer carried to Rio de Janeiro and handed over to MR. C. I. CROWTHER of the Leonard Wood Memorial for onward transmission to DR. WADE an illuminated address on vellum prepared by an artist in London. This framed ornamented parchment is in effect very beautiful and the text is as follows:

'We the undersigned Vice-Presidents and members of the Council of the International Leprosy Association desire to express to Dr. H. W. Wade our profound appreciation of the great services he has rendered to the Association since its foundation in 1931, as Councillor, and during the past seventeen years as its President. To this high office he brought great knowledge, wide experience, and sound judgment, and successive International Congresses have owed much to his counsel. His unusual editorial gifts exercised over thirty years have given the International Journal of Leprosy a world-wide reputation. Through its pages a generation of leprologists have found a forum for the sharing of new knowledge, and high standards have added dignity to the science of leprology.

All leprosy workers are indebted to Dr. Wade for his scientific contributions, particularly in the sphere of pathology and immunology. A sincere and penetrating scientist, he is equally a kindly and genial colleague. His decision not to accept another term as President is

greeted by all members of the International Leprosy Association with profound regret. It is unanimously resolved to appoint Dr. Wade as President Emeritus in recognition of his great services to the International Leprosy Association and his outstanding devotion to the cause of leprosy eradication.'

At the Rio Congress the ILA first chose DR. J. M. M. FERNANDEZ of Rosario, Argentina, as acting President for the Congress and later confirmed his name as the new President of ILA. DR. H. W. WADE was elected President Emeritus, as indicated in the above text of the illuminated address, and DR. ESMOND LONG of USA was chosen editor of International



DR. ERNANI AGRICOLA
Vice-President for the
Americas



DR. ERNEST MUIR
First Honorary
Vice-President



DR. KENSUKE MITSUDA
Honorary Vice-President



DR. H. W. WADE
President Emeritus of
International Leprosy
Association

Journal of Leprosy. DR. ERNANI AGRICOLA of Brazil was elected Vice-President for the Americas. With acclamation and unanimity DR. ERNEST MUIR was elected the first Honorary Vice-President (there having been none before) and almost immediately, with the same acclamation and unanimity, DR. K. MITSUDA of Japan was elected an Honorary Vice-President. (It is hoped to publish photographs of all these gentlemen in this issue, if their photographs arrive before this issue goes to press.)

The hard core of this and all congresses is the meeting of the scientific committees or panels. In the 8th Congress there were eight. Chairmen were elected in advance and a limited number of members chosen, and much work of co-ordination and discussion was done long beforehand by correspondence, and the panels met daily during the Congress and in special sessions of the Congress. Two of the panels were called 'Round Tables', and given the added advantage of meeting at Rio for several days before the actual Congress. The two Round Tables were: (a) Pathology and Experimental Transmission; (b) Round Table on Borderline and Indeterminate Leprosy. The other panels were on: (c) Leprosy Reaction; (d) Therapy; (e) Epidemiology and Control; (f) Bacteriology and Immunology; (g) Education and Social Aspects; (h) Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation; (i) Surgery and Vocational Training.

It is proposed in the remainder of this supplement on the 8th Congress to report on the considered findings of the Round Tables and Panels, and on summarised statements of some papers given.

With a sense of loss, but of gratitude and inspiration, and of sincere sympathy with the relatives of the deceased, we record the names of eminent leprologists who have died since the Tokyo Congress, 1958:

DR. J. DOULL, USA

DR. DE SOUZA ARAUJO, Brazil

DR. OTAVIO TORRES, Brazil

DR. AND MRS. PERRY BURGESS,
USA

DR. R. NAYLOR, England

SIR L. ROGERS, England

DR. BASOMBRIO, Argentina

DR. OLMOS CASTRO, Argentina

DR. A. BELTRAN ALONSO, Spain

PRESENTATION OF THE DAMIEN-DUTTON AWARD TO
MRS. EUNICE WEAVER OF BRAZIL.

The Damien-Dutton Society of New York has the pleasant practice of making an award to a distinguished leprologist at the time of the International Congress. Last time it was to DR. H. W. WADE. This time the Society provided the function the most popular and pleasant in the Congress, when SISTER DE LA TRINITE at one of the sessions on Friday, 13 September, made the award to MRS. EUNICE WEAVER of Brazil. DR. J. M. M. FERNANDEZ, President of ILA, presided and spoke and DR. ORESTES DINIZ made an elogium. He described the unassuming and faithful and outstanding hard work done by MRS. WEAVER for many years in the social and preventive side of leprosy in Brazil and indicated how well-loved MRS. WEAVER was by them all. The honour done to MRS. WEAVER was an honour done to Brazil and all Brazilians were proud of her and much encouraged by the choice of her for this famous award.

SISTER DE LA TRINITE led the delegation from the Damien-Dutton Society and handed over the plaque of the award to MRS. WEAVER who replied suitably.