

Editorial

LEPRA LEPROSY CONTROL PROJECT IN MALAWI

This Project of LEPRA began in the field in 1965. It has been fortunate in obtaining the essential of good quality personnel to initiate the scheme on the ground. It began in April 1965 with the placing of certain personnel on the task, viz., Dr Gordon Currie. Dr Currie was made available by the Malawi Government and Mr Drake. Mr A. H. Drake was the first direct LEPRA employee to arrive on the 3rd of April 1965. Mr J. Eldon, also a LEPRA employee, arrived on the 25th of September, 1965 to assist Dr Currie. Secondment of three African medical assistants is being arranged and housing was made possible by the purchase of a block of flats. As the Project develops it may be necessary to house a proportion of the African staff at strategic points in the Project area and not at Blantyre.

The plans for the hospital at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital Blantyre, are under way and the staff of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital and of the LEPRA Unit will be integrated as far as possible. The Physiotherapy block for the Queen Elizabeth Hospital has been planned and adequate space facilities in the new block will be secured for LEPRA patients.

The Unit has taken over 42 Government and Mission leprosy out-patient clinics at existing static centres and altogether there are now about 5,000 cases registered. This situation has given a major task in the examination and confirming the diagnosis of the cases and of medical status. This work has been very rewarding in building up a good relationship with the patients and in educating the staff of the Rural Health Centres.

A surprising number of really gross lepromatous patients are turning up which indicates that leprosy is still vigorously breeding. Child rate so far is not high. The Unit is aiming at weekly visits in circuits with the Land Rovers. Leprosy survey work has begun especially since Mr Eldon arrived.

Of BCG vaccine, 40,000 doses have arrived and the material is in cold rooms. The Unit awaits 'contact cards' before the process of beginning the vaccination. It might be possible to use spray gun technique.

Rehabilitation has been thought of and there are possibilities in this regard to be fully explored and an Orthopaedic workshop is mentioned as a possibility.

The important matter of Record Cards has taken longer than thought to make available, but the time is coming soon when Record Cards will be available in the final draft for field use.

Laboratory work has not been forgotten and will develop towards skin biopsies and histology and other technical studies. The Pathology Department of the hospital is most co-operative and it is obvious that the volume of work will grow and the LEPRA Unit should have its own technician.

The mobile circuit depends on Land Rovers of the LEPRA Unit and there is a possibility of other vehicles like the Renault 4L being useful.

Dr Currie has been truly helpful and valuable to the Project in the initial stage and now he has to retire (early in 1966). Dr B. D. Molesworth has been appointed Director and goes out to Malawi early in 1966; so there will be a short period when both men will be in the country at the same time.

GHANA CIVIL SERVICE

Applications are invited for the post of SENIOR MEDICAL OFFICER (LEPROLOGY) in the GHANA MINISTRY OF HEALTH.

Duties: Required to take charge of the leprosy service and be responsible for the supervision of all leprosy treatment centres.

Qualifications: Candidates (a) should preferably possess the M.R.C.P., or a similar specialist qualification of an equivalent or comparable standard; and (b) must have gained at least seven years clinical and administrative experience in the field of leprosy. SALARY in range £2,580-£3,250 p.a.

Appointment on contract for two tours each of 15 months' duration **In addition to salary a tax free gratuity at the rate of 10 per cent of aggregate salary is payable at the end of each tour of duty, and a tax free resettlement gratuity of 20 per cent of aggregate salary is payable on the satisfactory completion of contract.** Free passages for officer, wife and up to three children under 18 years and, in addition, an education allowance for children when not resident in Ghana and attending full-time school of £100 a child for up to three children under 18 years. Accommodation at low rental. Advance for car at 5 per cent interest, and car maintenance allowance may be granted. Generous leave on full pay. Income tax at reasonable local rates.

For application forms, please apply to:

**The Director of Recruitment,
Ghana High Commission,
248 Tottenham Court Road,
London, W.1.**