

# Editorial

LEPROSY REVIEW. This issue of *Leprosy Review* marks the close of an era. Volume 40—not XL, you notice—will make its debut early next year with the publication of No. 1. The familiar colour of the cover will be retained, but the style of printing will be modernised and, we hope, more attractive. There will be minor changes that the discerning eye will notice and approve.

*Leprosy Review* will, as heretofore, be published four times a year, as early in each quarter as the preparation of copy for the press will permit.

This will not be the first time that this quarterly publication of the British Leprosy Relief Association has taken on a new look, but this time the new look will coincide with new publishers. While LEPROA will continue, through its Medical Committee, to be responsible for the content and policy of the journal, the burdens and risks of publishing will henceforth devolve upon an established and experienced publishing house, The Academic Press Inc. (London) Ltd., whose address is:

BERKELEY SQUARE HOUSE,  
BERKELEY SQUARE,  
LONDON, W.1, ENGLAND.

Articles intended for publication should be submitted to the Chairman of the Editorial Board:

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Instructions to authors will appear in each subsequent issue of *Leprosy Review*, as well as information regarding reprints.

While the resources of our new publishers will be mobilised in favour of the promotion of *Leprosy Review* and its introduction into places where it should be read, in the last resort the appeal of such a publication depends on the quality and worth of its contents. Therefore, the Editorial Board will welcome and critically

consider any good original work on any aspect of leprosy.

The annual subscription to *Leprosy Review* has unfortunately had to be raised to £3 per annum to meet greatly increased costs. The Editorial Board will endeavour to keep the price at its present level and give the greatest possible value for money.

THE NINTH INTERNATIONAL LEPROSY CONGRESS. REFLECTIONS ON LONDON, 1968. In the eyes of many, 'London 1968' will go down in history as the Congress at which the science of leprosy emerged to take its place among the other major diseases long since admitted to the academic pantheon. More work, more good work and more good original work was reported at this Congress than at any of the previous eight. And this work came not only from those who have devoted themselves for years exclusively to the problems of leprosy, but also from investigators who have entered the leprosy field from other and related branches of medicine. Newcomers with well-stocked minds and well-polished investigative tools and techniques have been bringing their expertise to bear on the unsolved mysteries of the slightly contagious mycobacteriosis that remains the last of the major transmissible endemics to yield its secrets.

Of course, there were some papers read (in full or by title) that may have contributed little or nothing new, but they did provide evidence of the authors' application and industry. Other papers took a new look at old problems with refreshing iconoclastic zeal. The segregated leprologists of a bygone era must now rub shoulders with their fellow scientists, speaking the same language and adopting the same objective criteria for their investigations and conclusions. This is all to the good. The more exchange of ideas and skills, the more critical appraisal of reported work, the better. Of course, we have our own special problems in leprosy, and our own special ways of looking at them. But the mystique, the aura of uniqueness that

has been perhaps unwittingly built up over the years, must go before the piercing, penetrating light of detached scientific investigation. The confused and confusing literature on leprosy has been almost a byword among our fellows. If you look long enough in the journals, you can find evidence for almost any answer to almost any question on any aspect of leprosy. Contradictory and contrary views have been current on any major facet of leprosy you like to name. But, Sir Max Rosenheim reminded those who listened enraptured to his speech at the closing Banquet at the Savoy, so august a body as the Royal College of Physicians (London) reported in 1867 that the 'all but unanimous conviction of the most experienced observers' was 'quite opposed to the belief that leprosy is contagious'. Yet, within 30 or 40 years, one country after another was feverishly enacting laws for the compulsory segregation of people who suffered from the highly contagious disease called leprosy.

It is the same with treatment. Periods of naïve optimism have been followed by epochs of the most abject despair. Chaulmoogra oil was wonderful, a tremendous advance . . . and then, practically worthless. Any and every conceivable drug is effective in acute exacerbation . . . and the same proportion of patients gets better whatever the medication given. There must be more self-criticism and more open-minded welcoming of the criticism of others if consistent progress in therapy, unpunctuated by preventable over-enthusiasms and by avoidable and unwarrantable pessimisms, is to be registered in the future.

The Congress emphasised again and again the great steps forward that have been taken since Rio de Janeiro, 1963, and Tokyo, 1958. The experimental model of limited multiplication of *M. leprae* in the mouse footpad is now supplemented by the widespread dissemination of the organism in the thymectomized and irradiated mouse. Further studies in immunology are presaged by the reports on cell-mediated resistance and the use of anti-lymphocytic serum. The building-up of new knowledge in these spheres, the continuing interchange of ideas and sophisticated techniques, and the

cross-fertilisation of active minds already make Bergen, 1973, an exciting prospect.

The Minister of Health in his speech inaugurating the Congress, referred to the need to resolve the question of BCG prophylaxis in leprosy, a problem bedevilled by conflicting data for the past thirty years. Practically speaking, this may be the most urgent of our tasks, for control schemes are not only both costly and protracted, but they appear as yet to have made little general impression on the world prevalence of leprosy.

The Minister also referred to the need for co-operation between all concerned with leprosy: the scientist and the field-worker; the voluntary agency and the official national and international bodies; the medical profession and its invaluable and indispensable counterparts. The Secretary-General of the Congress sounded the same note in his address on 'The Way Ahead: blue-prints and guidelines' in the Session on Co-operation and Priorities, as well as in his summing-up at the Closing Ceremony of the highlights of the week's work.

We shall publish in the pages of *Leprosy Review* some of the papers presented at the Congress, and meantime repeat the hope expressed more than once that there should be some kind of continuing organisation to keep in close touch those who were brought together for an all-too-brief week in London, 1968.

#### MEN AND EVENTS

*Dr. Ernest Muir*, not quite so agile as he was but still very alert, was present at two sessions of the Congress. He was given the ovation he so richly deserves.

*Dr. Robert Cochrane*, on relinquishing the position of President of the International Leprosy Association—a position he has held since the lamented death of Dr. J. M. M. Fernandez—was accorded the title of President Emeritus. He will be working at the Shinyanga Leprosarium, Tanzania, with his wife, Mrs. (Dr.) Jeanie S. Cochrane.

*Editor of the International Journal of Leprosy.* In greeting our sister journal, we express our deep admiration for the magnificent work of

the retiring Editor, Dr. Esmond Long, and extend a warm welcome to the incoming occupant of the editorial chair, Dr. Olaf K. Skinsnes, Professor of Pathology in the University of Honolulu, Hawaii.

*Monsieur Raoul Follereau*, founder of World Leprosy Day and of The Order of Charity, paid a brief visit to London for the Congress. At the Session on 'Co-operation and Priorities', he made a characteristically impassioned plea that the individual leprosy sufferer must everywhere be accorded his full social and legal rights.

*Dr. Frans Hemerijckx*, well-known for his part in organising a model leprosy control service in the Province of Katanga in the old Belgian Congo, and then for his leadership in the Belgian Leprosy Control Centre at Polambakkam, South India, and his advisory activities throughout India, received the Damien-Dutton Award for 1968 at the hands of the founder and present Director of the Damien-Dutton Society (Mr. Howard E. Crouch) during the Closing Ceremony of the Congress. The Award was first made in 1953, and Stanley Stein (the Editor of 'The Star', Carville) was the recipient. Two of those honoured in earlier years. Mrs. Eunice Weaver (Brazil) and Dr. Robert G. Cochrane (India and England), were present.

The Award was established to honour those who have made some outstanding contribution towards the conquest of leprosy, through medical care, research, rehabilitation, education, philanthropy, etc. The handsome and weighty mounted bronze plaque bears the effigies of Father Damien of Molakai and of Brother (Joseph) Dutton, who spent 44 years working both with Father Damien and after the latter's death.

*Bergen, 1973.* The next (Tenth) International Leprosy Congress will be held in Bergen, Norway, from Monday, 20 August, onwards. Negotiations extending over several months culminated in the transmission by the Norwegian Government of an official invitation to hold the next Congress in Bergen. The invitation was enthusiastically and gratefully accepted by the General Meeting of Members of the

International Leprosy Association held during the recent (London) Congress. Bergen, 1973, will coincide with fitting celebrations to mark the centenary of Hansen's outstanding work on elucidating the causative organism of leprosy, *Mycobacterium leprae*.

*A.L.E.R.T. and ELEP.* Profiting from the presence at the Congress of personalities associated with A.L.E.R.T. (the All-Africa Leprosy Rehabilitation and Training Centre, Addis Ababa) and ELEP (the Association of of European Leprosy Organisations), meetings of the Medical Consultative Committees of these two bodies were held, at which matters of medical interest and policy were discussed.

*I.S.R.D.* The World Leprosy Committee of the International Society for Rehabilitation of the Disabled, under the Chairmanship of Dr. Paul Brand, held a meeting during the Congress. Since leprosy is one of the world's greatest crippling diseases—if not the greatest—it is most fitting that the Leprosy Committee should make its voice heard in the places where policy is determined and decisions made.

The next World Congress of the I.S.R.D. is to be held in Dublin, September 14-19, 1969. Leprosy will again figure—and that more prominently than at previous Congresses—on the programme.

The *Association de Léprologues de Langue Française* held an informal meeting during the Congress. We welcome the *Bulletin* of the Association, very well produced and excellently printed, which contains the papers presented at the Colloquium held in Tunis, at which the *Association* was founded. (Secretary-General: Dr. A. Basset, Clinique Dermatologique de la Faculté de Médecine de Strasbourg, 1 Place de l'Hôpital, 67 Strasbourg, France.)

OBITUARY. DR. H. W. WADE, 1886-1968. One by one, the giants of the past slip away from us. The pioneers of leprosy research and treatment may go, but their influence abides and their example continues to inspire and stimulate.

Herbert Windsor Wade was such a one. Nobody has had a more far-reaching and seminal effect on the understanding of the

pathology of leprosy than he. Trained as a tissue pathologist, and serving in turn as demonstrator in histology and pathology before he graduated in medicine, Wade will always be remembered for his critical observations and most painstaking research. Most of his work was done in the Philippines at Culion, where he pursued his elegant investigations and hammered out his masterly Editorials for the *International Journal of Leprosy*.

He popularised the 'scraped-incision' method for ascertaining the mycobacterial content of dermis and nasal mucosa; he made precise observations and descriptions of tuberculoid and borderline leprosy; his work on immunology in leprosy, on the preparation of lepomin and the significance of the lepomin reaction, is well known and universally recognised.

He was unsparing of himself and looked for the same high levels of critical evaluation in others. For clarity and precision of thought and expression, he has been rarely equalled in the world of leprosy, and never excelled. He could give the impression of being abrupt and unsympathetic to those who failed to reach the exacting standards he demanded of himself, but to those who knew him better this mask concealed an incisive and alert mind that was for ever probing for truth.

As another mark of his greatness, we may recall the many distinguished research workers who have been inspired by his example as they have worked alongside him in the laboratory.

'Prexy' Wade was accorded many honours. He was Chairman of the Leonard Wood Memorial Conference on Leprosy held in Manila in 1931, at which the International Leprosy Association was formed. He was the first Editor of the *International Journal of Leprosy*, relinquishing the task in 1963. Elected President of the Association in 1946—the third to hold the office—he became Emeritus President in 1963 on retiring from active work at Culion.

As a young doctor trying to tackle a huge leprosy problem in the Belgian Congo, I admired 'Prexy' Wade from afar, scarcely daring to correspond with him, but eagerly reading his early Editorials and articles. Later, I appreciated his helpfulness and encouragement when I first ventured into print on leprosy. His masterly grasp and clear exposition of the great puzzles of leprosy pathology and the minutiae of histopathology delighted and sometimes amazed us as we sat at his feet. My last personal contacts with him were enlivened by a discussion on the lysosome and its possible role in leprosy.

We salute him, and honour his memory.

S. G. BROWNE.