

Ceylon

Plans are afoot for the creation of a Leprosy Association in Ceylon. The leprosy situation in Ceylon has not received much publicity of late, and the WHO 1963 estimate of 10,300 cases must be regarded as conservative.

Profiting from their experience with the Ceylon National Association for the Prevention

of Tuberculosis, several prominent citizens are eager to arouse interest in the problem of leprosy in the island and to mobilize men of goodwill to action. It is more than likely that a determined and persistent case-finding campaign would reveal a far greater number of leprosy sufferers than is suspected at present.

Nepal

Following the recent successful leprosy seminar sponsored jointly by the Government of His Majesty the King of Nepal and the WHO, held in Kathmandu, 17 to 22 March, 1969, the Nepal Leprosy Relief Organization has been founded, with Her Royal Highness, the eldest daughter of His Majesty, as Chairman, and Her Royal Highness Princess Princep Shah as one of the most influential and active members.

Since Nepal opened its borders to the scientific and medical West, tremendous efforts

have been made to telescope centuries of progress into a few short years. Much remains to be done, especially in the matter of leprosy, and mediaeval laws need to be revoked if leprosy sufferers are to feel free to offer themselves for diagnosis and treatment without fear of compulsory segregation. Despite the enormous difficulties of communication in such a mountainous country possessing few roads, leprosy could be tackled together with the other endemic diseases.

Pakistan

The Pakistan Leprosy Relief Association at its Annual General Meeting held in Karachi, with the Divisional Commissioner in the chair, renewed its promise to provide increased aid, both social and medical, to leprosy patients, and

to encourage their rehabilitation. A Rehabilitation Centre and Workshop are to be constructed near the Manghopir Leprosy Hospital. Much more could be done if more money were available from donations. It is to be hoped that

a determined and concerted attack can be made on the problem of leprosy in Pakistan, especially East Pakistan, and that commendable efforts for the surgical treatment and rehabilitation of deformed leprosy patients may not divert attention from the greater task of

discovering and treating leprosy before it has led to deformity. Education of the public should be one of the principal activities of the Pakistan Leprosy Relief Association. The whole-hearted co-operation of the voluntary agencies in these matters is of paramount importance.

Clofazimine (Lamprene, Geigy)

The rimino-phenazine compound that has from time to time figured in articles in *Leprosy Review* under the code number B 663 or G 30320 (Geigy) is now marketed under the proprietary name "Lamprene" Geigy, and the approved name "clofazimine". It is presented in soft gelatin capsules each containing 100 mg of active ingredient in a micronized form, suspended in an oil/wax base.

The initial trials of the drug in leprosy were reported in *Leprosy Review* by Browne and

Hogerzeil in 1962, and numerous publications confirming the early opinions of its value in leprosy have subsequently appeared in this and many other journals. The suspected anti-inflammatory activity of the drug, when given in adequate doses, has been the subject of much investigation. A summary of the findings of a Working Party held in London in September, 1968, was published in *Leprosy Review* (1969) **40**, 1, 21-47.