

News and Notes

THE LASKER AWARDS, 1972

Among the recipients of the 1972 Albert and Mary Lasker Awards for distinguished international service to the handicapped was Mrs Kamala Nimbkar of India. The awards were presented at the opening session of the Twelfth World Congress of Rehabilitation International held in Sydney, Australia, in August, 1972.

Leprosy Review adds its congratulations to Mrs Nimbkar and its appreciation of her work not only among leprosy sufferers in Bombay, through the influence of her editorship of *Rehabilitation in Asia*, but also in a much wider area of human need.

POSTGRADUATE COURSES AT A L E R T

The following postgraduate courses and seminars for doctors are planned by A L E R T:

Seminar on Neurology and Ophthalmology in Leprosy, 27-31 August, 1973

The purpose of this seminar is to give participants an opportunity to examine cases with neurological and ophthalmic problems and to discuss them with our own staff. The sessions on neurology will be led by Dr John Pearson of the MRC Research Team, and on ophthalmology by Dr Margaret Brand.

Clinical Leprosy, 1-27 October, 1973

The post-graduate course in clinical leprosy is intended to meet the needs of those doctors with little or no experience in leprosy, but who will be responsible for the medical care of leprosy patients either as a part of general medical or dermatological practice or in specialized institutions. The course will be run at a level high enough to be of value to teachers in medical schools. In addition to clinical aspects, relevant data concerning basic science, anatomy, immunology and histopathology will be presented, and the course will conclude with studies in epidemiology and leprosy control. The course will be run by A L E R T staff, including Drs John Pearson, Harold Wheate, Ernest Fritschi, Dr Cap, and Dr Felton Ross, with the assistance of Professor Michel Lechat and Médecin-Général Languillon.

Management of Medical Care Programmes, 30 October-4 November, 1973

The purpose of this course is to enable the participants to apply modern management principles to their medical care programme. The courses will be directed by Dr E. J. Cummins, with the assistance of staff from the Centre for Ethiopian Management, and A L E R T. The subjects covered will include: (1) Explanation of management principles. (2) Identification of the skills needed

to ensure success. (3) Application of the principles of skills to specific medical situations.

Further details about these courses and opportunities for in-service training and other courses offered by A L E R T for para-medical workers, may be obtained from:

The Director of Training,
Dr W. Felton Ross, A L E R T,
P.O. Box 165,
Addis Ababa,
Ethiopia.

TEACHING COURSES AT FONTILLES

Dr José Terencio de las Aguas is again organizing teaching courses in leprosy at the Fontilles Leprosarium in Spain. A course for paramedical workers to be held from 12-22 September, 1973, will be followed, from 1-27 October, by a course for health auxiliaries. Full particulars may be obtained from Dr J. T. de las Aguas at Fontilles, Alicante, Spain.

The courses will be given by the staff of Fontilles, assisted by outside lecturers. They are sponsored by the Order of Malta.

W.H.O.—FELLOWSHIP MEDICAL OFFICER

The World Health Organization Regional Office for Europe announces the appointment of Dr Romeo Manrique-de-Lana of Mexico as the new medical officer with special responsibility for handling the placement of W.H.O. Fellows from all parts of the world. In 1972, no fewer than 2773 Fellows were helped in this way by the European office. The address of Dr Manrique-de-Lana is:

W.H.O. Regional Office for Europe,
8 Scherfigsvej,
D K-2100 Copenhagen,
Denmark.

THE SYMBOL OF ACCESS

Disabled leprosy patients will share the appreciation and gratitude expressed to the Council of Europe that it has recently recommended the use of the *International Symbol of Access* (Fig. 1) to its constituent governments. The



Fig. 1.

Committee of Ministers of the Council comprised official representatives from Belgium, France, the Federal Republic of Germany, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom.

While the great majority of leprosy patients in the world may never have the opportunity of propelling their wheeled chair (if they have one) up ramps and into shopping precincts, hotels, and theatres, the news that some countries of the Western World now recognize that such categories of the disabled deserved special consideration will be welcomed in many quarters.

COMPREHENSIVE RURAL HEALTH PROJECT IN JAMKHEDE, INDIA

Dr and Mrs (Dr) R. S. Arole have embarked upon a comprehensive rural health project in Maharashtra State.

work in similar situations. After a period of five years spent in the accepted curative hospital environment, Dr Arole became disillusioned with the minimal impact his medical activities had apparently had on the health of the community that his hospital served. He and his wife therefore studied public health at the Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore and returned to India to put their vision into practice. From the outset they determined to bring health care and preventive medicine to the whole community, and saw that the care of sufferers from leprosy would be a major part of their work in reducing morbidity and restoring human dignity.

By enlisting the co-operation of village heads and community leaders in their programme of health care, they were able to combat the prejudice that kept the leprosy sufferers outside the life of the villages. There are now no separate clinics for leprosy patients: all are welcomed at the central hospital. In a period of 18 months, 460 such patients have been placed on treatment, many of them having very early leprosy diagnosed by the survey teams that were engaged on an enquiry into all causes of ill-health. Dr Arole admits that the strongest and most vocal objection to the treating of leprosy patients at the same clinics as those suffering from tuberculosis or other diseases and conditions came, not from the community, but from his own nurses. Patience and perseverance are considered to be the prime needs of a programme of education in all aspects of health care.

DR WAYNE MEYERS TO HAWAII

Dr Wayne Meyers, who for the past 9 years has been in charge of the leprosy programme of the Institut Médical Evangélique in Kimpese, Republic of Zaire, has been appointed Professor of Pathology at the Medical School, Hawaii. Here he will work in close co-operation with Dr Olaf Skinsnes in the American Leprosy Missions' *Atelier*; he will be supported by this body.

NEWS FROM BRAZIL

A widely representative national body has been formed in Rio de Janeiro under the title of "National Committee for Leprosy Control". Government and religious agencies will unite in a programme of public education and enlightenment, and will encourage community participation in leprosy control and rehabilitation. The Committee will work towards integration of leprosy control into public health

services, and will hope to campaign for the revision of all discriminatory legislation. The number of registered leprosy patients in Brazil is stated to be nearly 124,000; the present estimate is much higher.

NEWS FROM GREECE

On 15 December, 1972, new buildings in the Santa Barbara Leprosarium in Athens were inaugurated by the Greek Government. In addition to dormitories and wards, there is a spacious restaurant where ambulant patients may obtain their meals.

NEWS FROM THE L E P R A PROJECT IN MALAWI

The L E P R A Control Project based on Blantyre continues to report progress. The flood of new patients has become a trickle, though careful examinations are still bringing to light further cases of leprosy, both through the skin clinics at Blantyre and Zomba and the activities of the mobile teams.

At the end of 1972, no fewer than 12,400 leprosy patients has been registered in the Control Area, and 1919 patients had been discharged "disease arrested". The regularity of attendance in December 1972, was 49%.

The modest hospital admirably fulfills its function as a centre to which patients in need of hospital care for a limited period can be brought. Being in close proximity to the Queen Elizabeth Hospital and adjacent to an orthopaedic workshop, its wards are always full of patients requiring minor surgery or intensive care during reactional episodes.

NEWS FROM TRINIDAD

In the days of Dr Ernest Muir, the veteran leprologist, all persons suffering from leprosy in Trinidad and Tobago were directed towards the leprosarium at Chacachacare. Now, they may obtain treatment as out-patients if they wish, thanks to a new emphasis on domiciliary care. As a result of the new policy and the new attitude encouraged by the Ministry of Health and the American Leprosy Missions, Inc., patients are presenting themselves more readily and earlier for diagnosis and treatment. The Trinidad and Tobago Leprosy Relief Association is actively assisting in this programme, working in close co-operation with the Leprosy Control Unit and supplementing its activities in social support for the islands' leprosy sufferers.

REFERENCE LIBRARY FOR LEPROSY

Plans are being prepared for the creation of a Centre in Germany that will act as a clearing house or reference library on leprosy. Professor K. F. Schaller will be responsible, as Director, for the organization of the Centre, which is being financed generously by the German Leprosy Relief Association (*Deutsches Aussätzigen Hilfswerk*) with an annual grant of about 30,000 D.M.

The Centre will act as an abstracting service, covering some 2700 periodicals in many languages, and will be able to furnish references appearing in the literature, to answer questions on any aspect of leprosy, and even to offer disinterested advice to enquirers on research projects. The Centre will draw upon the

bibliographical resources of the Ernst-Rodenwalt Institute, which has a scientific library and research laboratories in the same complex, with 30 research workers and 150 technical assistants. The special services to be made available to leprosy workers are listed as follows: (a) the present position of research in leprosy; (b) epidemiology; (c) prevention, treatment, and rehabilitation; (d) all related branches of science that deal with the study of tissues and of *Myco. leprae*; (e) the present state of the world-wide leprosy campaign; (f) a collection of photographs and films relating to all aspects of leprosy. The Centre will thus be in a unique position to supply information on all aspects of research and treatment/control programmes.

All enquiries should be addressed to:

Professor Dr K. F. Schaller,
Ernst-Rodenwalt Institute,
Viktoriastrasse 11-13,
Koblenz,
Germany.

It is hoped that the Centre will be in full operation in 18 months' time. The annual costs are expected to remain at the remarkably low level indicated by reason of the fact that no expense is incurred for furnishing, rent, or the Director's salary.

CHANGE OF NAME

The International Federation of Physical Medicine will be known henceforth as the International Federation of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation. The change of name indicates the increasingly strong and practical links between these two activities in many countries. The Honorary Secretary is:

Dr A. P. M. van Gestel,
Rehabilitation Centre, Eindhoven,
96 Kempensebaan,
Eindhoven,
Holland,

from whom a list of the representatives in the various countries may be obtained.