

News and Notes

LEPROSY REVIEW IN 1975

At the end of November 1974, with the transfer of LEPRO Headquarters from London to Colchester, the Editorial Office of *Leprosy Review* returned to 57A Wimpole Street, London W1M 7DF at the invitation of Dr Browne. We very much appreciate his kindness and the facilities made available at the Leprosy Study Centre.

Inflation strikes at the cost of printing as at everything else. It is regretted that an increase in subscription rate for Volume 46 has become inevitable, but subscribers should be well satisfied with what Volume 46 has to offer. First, the average number of pages per Number is being raised permanently to 80. In addition we are proud to announce an additional Special Number, available to subscribers without additional cost, and devoted to the recent Borstel Colloquium.

With this Number there opens a series of invited articles in the Field Workers Forum Section, devoted to basic leprosy teaching, with contributions from younger specialists in various aspects of leprology.

XIII WORLD REHABILITATION CONGRESS, 1976

Rehabilitation International announces that the XIII World International Congress will be held in Tel Aviv, Israel, 21-25 June, 1976. The Secretary-General is Dr E. Chigier (P.O. Box 16271, Tel Aviv, Israel), from whom all particulars may be obtained. At several of the past quadrennial Congresses, leprosy has been well represented, and special sessions of interest to leprosy workers have been organized.

TROPICAL DERMATOLOGY

The Third World Congress of the International Society of Tropical Dermatology was held in Sao Paulo (Brazil) from 1 to 5 September, 1974.

As usual, leprosy attracted considerable attention, with a symposium all to itself under the able chairmanship of Prof. R. D. Azulay, and about 25 papers on leprosy presented as "free communications". While no new material was disclosed in these papers, they engendered vigorous discussion. Other subjects of interest to leprologists included vasculitis, skin lesions of atypical mycobacterioses, pigmentation, and such conditions as cutaneous leishmaniasis. One welcome feature of the Congress was the presence, at the sessions concerned with leprosy, of dermatologists and research workers who were attracted by the growing relevance to their own subject of leprosy investigations. Another feature was the interest displayed by leprosy workers in diverse tropical dermatoses, and their contributions in these sessions.

At the General Assembly of Members, Dr Arthur Rook (of Cambridge) was elected President of the International Society of Tropical Dermatology, and Dr S. G. Browne was elected to the Board of Directors.

ARGENTINA LEPROSY SOCIETY CELEBRATES ITS 20th ANNIVERSARY

The Society celebrated the 20th Anniversary of its foundation by organizing an international symposium on 7 September, 1974, in Buenos Aires. A score of invited guests from a dozen countries presented papers on their work to an audience of upwards of a hundred interested persons. The following day, the congressists visited the B. Sommer Leprosy Sanatorium, situated some 50 km from the capital, and saw a wide range of clinical presentations of leprosy.

LEPROSY SEMINARS IN THE SOUTH PACIFIC

Thanks to the initiative of the Lepers' Trust Board of New Zealand, Dr S. G. Browne recently conducted seminars in Western Samoa, Tonga and Fiji. Doctors from distant islands were brought by air to the centres. In addition to the lectures, clinical demonstrations and visits to outlying hospitals, useful contacts were made with Health Departments and the general public through the radio and public meetings. Student and graduate nurses, community nurses and physiotherapists also profited from some of the courses given. People in New Zealand can be proud of the continuing contribution they are making, through this voluntary agency, towards the effective control of the scourge of leprosy in the islands of the South Pacific.

1974 DAMIEN-DUTTON AWARD

Dr Jose N. Rodriguez, former Director of the Bureau of Disease Control of the Philippines, and doyen of leprologists in that country, is the 21st recipient of the Damien-Dutton Award, and we add our congratulations to those of Dr Rodriguez' friends around the world. A dedicated research worker and administrator, Dr Rodriguez has devoted his life to the cause of sufferers from leprosy, and this Award is entirely fitting. We are happy to have a contribution from Dr Rodriguez in this Number of *Leprosy Review*.

IMMUNOLOGY OF LEPROSY PROJECT GROUP (IMMLEP)

WHO has decided to establish a Special Programme for Research and Training in Tropical Diseases. The programme is at present in its planning phase. A major part of it will be to establish working groups covering six major communicable diseases. The members of these groups will actively participate in co-operative research. The first of these groups (IMMLEP) met in Geneva from 4 to 8 November, 1974. The objective agreed upon was to explore the possibility of developing and applying new techniques for investigating the various immunological aspects of leprosy. The ready availability of large amounts of *Myco. leprae* from infected armadillos has made new approaches possible.

Priority will be given to work on the purification of *Myco. leprae* from armadillo tissue for the preparation of a specific soluble skin test antigen. This

test will permit for the first time direct measure of endemicity levels of leprosy in different populations throughout the world. The bacilli and fractions thereof will be used to investigate the role of cell-mediated immunity in resistance to the infection and pathogenesis of reactional phase and nerve damage. Immunoprophylaxis by vaccination is a realistic possibility and the long-term objectives of the group will be to explore various approaches to this end.

Further information can be obtained from World Health Organization, 1211 Geneva 27, Switzerland.

KARIGIRI TRAINING PROGRAMME

Schieffelin Leprosy Research Sanatorium, Karigiri, is offering the following courses for 1975-76:

1. *Introductory Courses in Leprosy – 6 days* – Intended for general medical practitioners who will be including leprosy work in their practice (35 hours teaching plus demonstrations and excursions).
4 courses per year – 20 candidates per course.
2. *Certificate Courses in Leprosy – 6 weeks* – Intended primarily for doctors, but senior nurses training for full time responsibility in leprosy institutions, are also accepted. It teaches clinical leprosy, diagnosis and comprehensive treatment including complications etc.,
2 courses per year – July–August and February–March. 20 candidates per course.
3. *Para Medical Workers Courses – 6 months* – Training for village level workers according to curriculum recognized by the Ministry of Health, Government of India.
1 course per year – July to December – 10 candidates.
4. *Orthopaedic Technicians Course – 2 years* – School Leaving Certificate candidates will be given a full training in manufacture of orthopaedic, footwear, appliances, splints, braces and artificial limbs.
6 candidates admitted every year. Course commences in April, 1975.
5. *Course in the Management of Ophthalmic Manifestations of Leprosy – one week* – Open to doctors primarily, but other senior responsible personnel may be accepted. Lectures and demonstrations in eye complications of leprosy.
One course per year to commence in January – 6 candidates.

Accommodation available for all courses. Enquiries for further particulars to be addressed to:

The Training Officer,
Schieffelin Leprosy Research Sanatorium,
S L R Sanatorium (P.O.), Karigiri,
via Katpadi, 632 106, North Arcot,
South India.