

News and Notes

WHO AND LEPROSY CONTROL

Leprosy control figured on the Agenda of the 28th World Health Assembly at its recent meeting in Geneva.

The wording of the resolution passed on that occasion was as follows:

Recalling resolutions WHA 5.28 and WHA 27.58, and

Noting that leprosy control measures can reduce substantially the prevalence of leprosy when undertaken with sustained effort for a sufficiently long period,

1. RECOMMENDS that:

(a) intensive case detection be carried out to ensure early diagnosis particularly in children;

(b) infectious cases be identified, and when possible be submitted initially to closely supervised treatment to minimize infectiousness and thus the spread of disease;

2. EMPHASIZES the need for health services to integrate leprosy control as a regular continuing activity; and

3. REQUESTS the Director-General to lay greater stress on the training of multidisciplinary staff to improve levels of competence in leprosy control.

It is to be hoped that Member States will wholeheartedly implement this resolution, and thus take a major step forward in leprosy control.

ELEP BECOMES ILEP

As announced briefly in the last Number of *Leprosy Review*, the Federation of European Leprosy Associations, known hitherto as ELEP, has become intercontinental and has consequently changed its name to ILEP.

For some years, the Canadian organization, the *Secours aux Léproux*, which is associated with the international body known as the *Fondation Follereau*, has been a member of ELEP. The American Leprosy Missions, Inc., and the Sasakaway Memorial Health Foundation (of Japan) have now been admitted as full members of ELEP. Hence the reason for the change of name: ELEP has become ILEP.

The recently-published statistical summary makes interesting reading. No fewer than 605 centres are being assisted financially with annual grants now totalling about £3,750,000. The number of leprosy patients being treated is 1,106,560—an impressive proportion of the total number being treated by all agencies, government and voluntary, throughout the world. By far the highest expenditure is devoted to leprosy control schemes, mobile services and outpatient clinics, some of which form part of national leprosy programmes.

This year, about £305,000 will be devoted to leprosy research. At a meeting of ILEP held in Paris (5-8 June, 1975), the IMMLEP Project was again warmly

commended to the Member-Organizations; it is hoped that about £40,000 will be granted annually for the next five years in support of this ambitious co-operative effort in leprosy research.

THE VICTOR HEISER AWARDS FOR RESEARCH IN LEPROSY

These awards are funded by a bequest from Dr Victor Heiser, a well-known doctor with a world-wide experience in public health medicine and a life-long interest in leprosy and leprosy research. The primary purpose of the awards is to foster basic biomedical research in fields related to leprosy and to encourage national and international cooperation and research exchange in the study of this disease.

Two categories of awards are available:

1. *Postdoctoral Research Fellowships*

Candidates should have the Ph.D. or M.D. degree and be at the beginning or early stage of postdoctoral training in a field of basic biomedical science directly related to leprosy. Applications will be accepted either from individuals directly, or from heads of laboratories active in leprosy research, for authorization to appoint a fellow. Up to two years of support will be provided at stipend levels between \$10,000 and \$14,000 per annum.

2. *Visiting Research Awards*

Applicants should be established investigators in leprosy who wish to carry out a specific project at a distant institution. Per diem and travel support will be provided for up to six months of collaborative research. Preference will be given proposals that plan field/clinical experience with leprosy.

The deadline for receipt of all applications is February 1, 1976

Further information and instructions for making application may be requested from Ms. Caroline R. Stanwood, Director, Heiser Fellowship Program for Research in Leprosy, 1230 York Avenue, New York, New York 10021.

INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF PEDIATRIC DERMATOLOGY

The International Society of Pediatric Dermatology—has been formed recently by a group of Dermatologists and Paediatricians.

Those interested to become members of the Society can be either Paediatricians or Dermatologists, or both.

Officers of the Society are: Dr Ramón Ruiz-Maldonado, President; Dr Lawrence Solomon, Secretary; and Dr Coleman Jacobson, Treasurer.

For further information write to: L. Solomon, M.D., P.O. Box 6998, Chicago, Ill. 60680 U.S.A.

INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE OF DERMATOLOGICAL SOCIETIES

Following the meeting of the International Committee of Dermatology, more information is now available regarding the XV International Congress of Dermatology which will take place in 1977 in Mexico City. Seven Sub-

Committees have been appointed to prepare the scientific programmes. Patient presentations, instructional courses, symposia dealing with recent developments in dermatology, guest lectures, topics of current interest, workshops, informal discussion groups, free communications and audiovisual programmes are all envisaged during the Congress. Abstracts of papers to be given during the Congress must be furnished by 1 January, 1977, must not exceed 200 words in length and must be in English. The Address of the Secretary General, Dr Felix Sagher, is, Department of Dermatology, Hadassah University Hospital, P.O. Box 499, 91000 Jerusalem, Israel.

HONOURS FOR LEPROSY WORKER

On the recommendation of its Board of Science, the British Medical Association has awarded the Stewart Prize to Dr Stanley G. Browne. The award is made at about two-yearly intervals in recognition of important work on the spread of epidemic disease. In addition to his "outstanding work" on leprosy, Dr Browne has made important contributions on onchocerciasis, yaws and other tropical conditions.

In recognition of his "continuous services toward sufferers from leprosy in Korea", Dr Browne has been made an Honorary Member of the Korean Society of Leprologists. During his last visit to Korea, he was guest speaker at the Annual Meeting of the Society in Seoul.

At a recent meeting of the Dermatological Society of South Africa held in Durban, Dr Browne was admitted to the Honorary Membership of the Society in recognition of his contribution to the Third South African International Dermatological Congress. He gave papers on "Recent Immunological Concepts and Leprosy", "Skin Manifestations of Onchocerciasis" and "Treponemal Depigmentation". Professor J. Gay-Prieto was also admitted to the Honorary Membership of the Society.

AWARDS TO LEPROSY WORKER

Miss Grace V. Bennett, a qualified nurse who has been in charge of The Leprosy Mission's programme in Korea since the departure of the doctor, has recently been appointed O.B.E. by Her Majesty the Queen. She has also been awarded the Dongbaeg Medal by the Korean Government for her valuable services to leprosy sufferers. The Mission's base at Taegu, attached to the Skin Department of the University, serves as a centre from which mobile teams fan out into the surrounding countryside for diagnosis and treatment of leprosy and education of patients and their families.