

DAMIEN-DUTTON AWARD 1975

At a recent ceremony in New York Dr Oliver W. Hasselblad became the 23rd recipient of the Damien-Dutton Award. Following 20 years service as a medical missionary in India, Dr Hasselblad joined the staff of the American Leprosy Missions in 1959, and became widely known during the following 15 years for his tireless advocacy of deeper concern for the social welfare and rehabilitation of leprosy sufferers. He served as a member of the WHO Leprosy Expert Committee and played a prominent role in succeeding International Leprosy Congresses. He has travelled widely, and his assessments of leprosy needs in developing countries have resulted in important changes in many areas, with control programmes replacing institutionalized care. Dr Hasselblad is a member of the Council of the International Leprosy Association, and is the present executive officer of the *International Journal of Leprosy*. We offer Dr Hasselblad our cordial congratulations and best wishes.

TRANSMISSION OF PATHOLOGICAL MATERIAL BY POST TO AND FROM THE UK

Recent correspondence in the *Lancet* has drawn attention to the possible danger to the public caused by poor packaging of pathological specimens sent through the post. The Principal Medical Officer to the British Post Office has drawn attention to the following regulations.

Pathological specimens may be sent only by first class letter post and must be packaged and labelled in a prescribed manner. Any such packet found in the parcel post or found in the letter post not properly packed and labelled will be destroyed. Requirements for packaging pathological specimens are:

the liquid or substance must be enclosed in a container which is hermetically sealed or otherwise securely closed,

the container must be placed in a strong wooden or metal case (any other case must be approved by the post office before use) in such a way that it cannot shift about,

the container must be surrounded by enough absorbent material—sawdust or cotton wool—to prevent any leakage from the package if the container becomes damaged,

the outside of the package must be marked “Fragile with care” and “Pathological specimen”.