

**ARCHIVES OF THE LEPROSY MISSION,  
HAY LING CHAU LEPROSARIUM,  
HONG KONG**

The Leprosarium run by The Leprosy Mission on the island of Hay Ling Chau, Hong Kong (“The Isle of Happy Healing”), closed down in January 1975. At the beginning of January there were 93 patients, of whom 42 returned home or to accommodation found for them and 51 were transferred to the Lai Chi Kok Hospital under the care of the Hong Kong Government Medical and Health Department. The Leprosarium was started on the 6th August, 1951, when Dr Neil Fraser and 22 patients landed on a bare and deserted island. It developed through the years into a large and beautiful institution where 540 patients received excellent medical and surgical attention and lived in a community where all their needs—physical, mental, recreational and spiritual—were cared for. From beginning to end, 2305 patients were admitted, almost all of whom were Chinese. Those admitted were suffering from lepromatous or borderline leprosy or required hospitalization for acute illness, ulcers or surgery.

Throughout the years full and careful records were kept of each patient and as the closure approached it became a matter of concern that these records should not be destroyed or dispersed, but should be made available both to those responsible for continuing treatment and those wishing to pursue serious research. After discussions the Hong Kong Government Archivist kindly agreed that the entire collection of records pertaining to all patients who had ever been treated at Hay Ling Chau should be transferred to the Public Records Office, Hong Kong.

The transfer took place between January and June 1975 and the records are now indexed and stored in the new, air-conditioned premises of the Public Records Office.

The records transferred include, for each patient: diagnosis; medical history; treatment procedures; physiotherapy; surgical procedures; radiography—x-ray films and reports; laboratory reports; eye examinations; photographs; and in some cases colour transparencies, skin smear and biopsy slides. These records are all linked by the Leprosy In-Patient number (LIP) given to each patient on admission to Hay Ling Chau Leprosarium and recorded in the Admission Register. In addition there is much supporting literature both concerning the history and general development of Hay Ling Chau, and concerning special investigations carried out there. All of this material has been fully and carefully indexed and listed by the Archivist and copies of the catalogue\* may be seen at:

1. The Leprosy Mission, 50 Portland Place, London W1N 3DG, England.
2. The Leprosy Mission, Hong Kong Auxiliary, 33 Granville Road, Kowloon, Hong Kong.
3. The Public Records Office of Hong Kong, 2 Murray Road, Hong Kong.

The whole collection is closed and is not available to the general public since most of the individuals concerned are still alive: many of them are still receiving follow-up treatment and their privacy must be protected. However, access to the records may be allowed in the following instances:

1. When the records are required for the treatment of individual patients application must be made to the Public Records Office through the Director of Medical and Health Services, Hong Kong Government.
2. For those who wish to make use of the records in pursuing original research into leprosy, application should first be made to the International General Secretary, The Leprosy Mission, 50 Portland Place, London W1N 3DG, stating the object of the research and the data required.

We record our sincere gratitude to the Hong Kong Government and its Archivist for storing, indexing and making available this unique body of material.

Alan D. Waudby,  
Assistant Secretary, The Leprosy Mission  
(formerly Representative for East Asia).

#### DR S. G. BROWNE C.M.G

Dr Browne, Consulting Editor to this Journal, was awarded the Honour of Commander of the Order of St. Michael and St. George in the New Year's Honours List, 1976, an entirely fitting recognition of the great distinction with which Dr Brown has served the cause of those who suffer from leprosy. We are proud to join our congratulations to those of his numerous friends in many countries.

\* Public Records Office of Hong Kong: *Archives of The Leprosy Mission Hong Kong Auxiliary, Hay Ling Chau Leprosarium. 6th August, 1951-22nd January, 1975.* HKMS 2 May, 1975.