

News and Notes

11TH INTERNATIONAL LEPROSY CONGRESS, MEXICO CITY, 1978

The next International Leprosy Congress will be held in Mexico City from Monday, 13 November, 1978 till Saturday, 18 November. The local Honorary President will be Professor F. Latapi, and the Chairman of the local Organizing Committee is Dr Amado Saul.

Dr J. Convit, the President of the International Leprosy Association has appointed a representative Committee to advise him on the form and contents of the Scientific Programme of the Congress. This Committee will meet in January 1977, and will consider the numerous representations made from various individuals and interested bodies, so that the needs of all kinds of leprosy workers may be catered for as far as possible.

As in London (1968) and Bergen (1973), the Secretary-General of the Congress is Dr S. G. Browne, C.M.G., O.B.E.

Preliminary notices of the Congress, including indications of the themes to be considered, and all information concerning the submission of abstracted full papers, will be published as soon as possible after the President's Advisory Committee in January 1977.

LEPROSY SEMINAR IN IRAN

A successful international seminar under the title "Evaluation of Leprosy" was held in Teheran, Iran, from 21 to 23 June, 1976. The seminar was under the distinguished patronage of Her Imperial Majesty Farah Pahlavi, Empress of Iran, and was organized by the Leprosy Assistance Association of Iran, in particular its Secretary, Dr Siyadat. Well-known participants came from many countries—England, France, Switzerland, U.S.A., Brazil, Argentina, Senegal, India, Indonesia and Korea. Many doctors and research workers from Iran itself, as well as expatriates (from France, Switzerland, India and Korea) working in the leprosy service in Iran at Mashad, Tabriz and Behkadeh, took an active part in the proceedings. Many aspects of leprosy came under review, from the latest research work on immunotherapy by the lymphocyte transfusion, to a critical evaluation of the late results of reconstructive surgery.

The problem of leprosy in Iran is not huge or unmanageable, the prevalence rates ranging from about 0.5 to 2.47/mille, and an estimated total number of sufferers about 30,000 in a population of 30 million. However, difficulties of access, extremes of climate, the scattered nature of the population, impermeable social prejudices, and the absence of an adequate medical service in outlying parts of the country—all tend to make case-finding and case-holding matters of real concern.

The Empress, who is well known for her practical interest in leprosy and all other social ills affecting the citizens of Iran, gave an audience to visitors from abroad and some of the Iranian doctors. She urged a greater collaboration between the Health Ministry and the voluntary agency that has played so notable a part in bringing the problem of leprosy to the attention of the Iranian people.