

News and Notes

XI INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF LEPROSY, MEXICO CITY, MEXICO 11–18 NOVEMBER 1978

The attention of all our readers is drawn to this important Congress.

Registrations, hotel reservations, social events, tours and in general all administrative matters concerning this Congress will be handled by the Local National Committee. Please address to: *XI International Congress of Leprosy, Asociacion Mexicana de Accion Contra La Lepra A.C., Dr Vertiz 464, Mexico 7. D. F. MEXICO.*

Scientific Programme

WORKSHOPS

(1) Chairmen and members have been named to participate in workshops on the following themes: experimental leprosy; microbiology; immunology; experimental chemotherapy; epidemiology and control (including field therapy) and social aspects. The respective chairmen will inform the members of their workshop on which day they will meet (9, 10 and 11 November) before the opening day of the Congress. Reports of these workshops will be presented to participants when they register.

ORGANIZATION OF CONGRESS SESSIONS

(2) After the first plenary session (on epidemiology and control), simultaneous scientific sessions will be organized under the following themes: experimental leprosy; clinical aspects; microbiology; immunology; social aspects; experimental chemotherapy; therapy; rehabilitation and clinico-pathological aspects (including nerve damage).

The main presentations at each session will be made by participants who have already been informed by the chairmen of the session at which their paper will be presented.

FREE COMMUNICATIONS

(3) A very limited number of papers (of 10 min duration) on aforementioned themes will be accepted for reading at each of the scientific sessions.

POSTER PRESENTATIONS

(4) It will be an innovation at the Congress.

CLINICAL SESSION

(5) Patients with Lucio Leprosy will be shown at the Pascua Dermatological Centre.

ABSTRACTS

(6) All abstracts of papers, from intending participants only should be submitted before 30 April 1978 to Dr S. G. Browne, 57A Wimpole Street, London W1M 7DF, England. Four copies of the abstract, not exceeding 200 words in length, in one (or more) of the official languages of the Congress, and indicating the Session at which the paper would be relevant, should be submitted.

No participant may figure as the principal author of more than one paper.

For information about the Scientific Programme, presentation of free papers and so on, please write to: *Dr Stanley G. Browne, Secretary General, International Leprosy Association, 57A, Wimpole Street, London W1M 7DF, England.*

INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF THE CHILD (1979)

On 21 December 1976, the General Assembly of the United Nations passed a resolution declaring 1979 the International Year of the Child. The hope is that by placing children in the centre of world attention, the world community will renew and re-affirm concern for the present condition and for the future of its children.

One critical area of concern is stigma. Many millions of children are prevented from growing and developing in normal ways simply because stigmatizing differences have been ascribed to them. In some cases, children themselves are in some way different. In other instances, it is more a matter of "guilt by association"; parents, siblings, or other associates are the immediate victims.

The causes of stigmatization are many, but in as much as thousands of children are directly afflicted with leprosy and millions more suffer from its stigma, the International Federation of Anti-Leprosy Associations and the International Leprosy Association are taking active parts especially in this aspect of the International Year of the Child activities. And, both through these organizations and independently, American Leprosy Missions is extending support.

In order to take best advantage of the opportunity to highlight the plight of children affected by leprosy either directly or indirectly, help is needed in identifying the priorities which will serve children who suffer spiritually and physically from leprosy. Members of ILEP were requested to complete a questionnaire designed to assist in compiling data. Of special concern is the importance of determining what social injustices, if any, children suffer as a result of leprosy backgrounds. If any reader has information which might be valuable in developing a meaningful programme for children of such

backgrounds, or if you have a specific philosophy or goal for this special year which you would like to have made known at the United Nations, it would be most appreciated.

Within the framework of UNICEF, which is co-ordinating the United Nations efforts on behalf of the International Year of the Child, a special committee for co-ordination of world-wide activities was established and Mrs Bernice Gottlieb, because of her well-known interest in children who have leprosy or whose parents have leprosy, has been appointed by the ILA as a member of this committee. If you have information you would like to share, you may write to Mrs Bernice Gottlieb in care of American Leprosy Missions, 1262 Broad Street, Bloomfield, New Jersey 07003.

WORLD LEPROSY DAY

Information regarding World Leprosy Day 1978 arrived too late for inclusion in the December 1977 issue of *Leprosy Review*. Our readers will recall that the date of this is always *the last Sunday in January*. In 1979, this will be 28 January.

The concept of a World Leprosy Day was originated in 1953 by M. Raoul Follereau, to bring the needs of leprosy patients before governments and the public. The day is now observed in over 100 countries.

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It is greatly regretted that on account of increased printing costs it has once again been necessary to increase the subscription charge for the journal. Through the efforts of Lepra it is hoped that there will be no additional charge for 1979. We thank all our readers for their continued support. *Leprosy Review* is published on behalf of Lepra, without financial profit to Lepra.

THE FIRST INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP ON LEPROSY CONTROL IN ASIA

The Sasakawa Memorial Health Foundation is endeavouring to make a real impact on leprosy in Asia. Under its auspices, a Workshop was held in Bangkok (November 1976) on "The Training of Leprosy Workers"; in Manila (January 1977) another on "The Chemotherapy of Leprosy"; and now (28 November to 2 December 1977) "The First International Workshop on Leprosy Control in Asia" was held in Jakarta, Indonesia. This Workshop was organized and sponsored by the Department of Health of the Republic of Indonesia in conjunction with the Sasakawa Memorial Health Foundation. The theme of the Workshop being "The role of voluntary agencies in National Leprosy Control Programmes", participants included delegates from voluntary agencies involved in leprosy field work and training in Indonesia itself (The Leprosy Mission, Nederlands Lepra Fonds, Emmaus Suisse, German Leprosy Relief Association), representatives from WHO, Unicef and ILEP, delegates from neighbouring countries (Nepal, Thailand, the Philippines,

South Korea, Japan), as well as resource persons (Drs S. G. Browne, R. S. Guinto and M. F. Lechat).

Taking the advice given in the Fifth WHO Expert Committee on Leprosy, that “continuing consultation between the health authorities and voluntary agencies should be encouraged”, the Workshop reviewed the leprosy programmes in the countries represented, and made suggestions for the better application of the principle of co-operation and complementation that has recently been well demonstrated in Indonesia itself and in other countries in Asia.

The success of the Workshop will be judged by the extent to which the countries concerned put into practice the recommendations that were unanimously adopted at the close of the Workshop proper. A successful field trip concluded the proceedings.

S. G. BROWNE

(Note. A review of the published Proceedings of this Workshop is presented under “Leprosy and the Community”. Ed.)

DRUG RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

A Round Table Conference on “Trends and Prospects in Drug Research and Development”, organized by CIOMS (The Council for International Organizations of Medical Sciences) was held at Geneva on 8 and 9 December 1977. Representatives of Member-Organizations of the Council were present as well as spokesmen for the World Health Organization and Pharmaceutical Companies engaged in drug research.

As far as leprosy is concerned, it seems that our demands for a cheap, non-toxic, rapidly-acting drug, effective in all kinds of leprosy and free from the risk of inducing reversal reaction in nerves—are like “crying for the moon”. However, since the World Health Organization through its Training and Research programme in Tropical Diseases, and particularly its THELEP (and indirectly, its IMMLEP) programme, is now more than ever actively concerned with leprosy, it is to be hoped that the meeting will have given a real impetus to drug research at this critical stage in the anti-leprosy campaign. Meanwhile, a more enlightened use of the drugs we have available, and a greater insistence on regularity of treatment, should be within the reach of all leprosy control programmes.

S. G. BROWNE

WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

Special Programme for Research and Training in Tropical Diseases

THE SEARCH FOR SCIENTISTS TO SEARCH FOR THE TOOLS TO CONTROL THE TROPICAL DISEASES

The search for new tools to control disease in the tropical countries requires scientists of many disciplines. Molecular and cell biologists, biochemists, immunologists, parasitologists and entomologists are among those whose contributions are needed.

The research areas covered by the Special Programme for Research and Training in Tropical Diseases are:

- malaria, schistosomiasis, filariasis, trypanosomiasis, leishmaniasis and leprosy;
- epidemiology, biomedical sciences, biological control of vectors, and socio-economic research.

Specific fields within these research areas are developed by the Programme's Scientific Working Groups. Scientists from any country are welcome to submit proposals for research grants within the specific fields. All enquiries should be addressed to:

The Special Programme for Research and Training in Tropical Diseases
World Health Organization
1211 Geneva 27, Switzerland.

For those persons seeking contact with Special Programme participants in the United Kingdom, a Special Programme Committee has been set up by a group of interested scientists there to provide such information. The Committee also has research proposal forms available. Correspondence should be addressed to:

Professor David Bradley, Chairman
UK National Committee of the TDR
c/o Mrs J. Beard
Medical Research Council
20 Park Crescent, London W1N 4AL, U.K.

Should scientists in other countries wish to organize such liaison Committees, we should be pleased to collaborate with them and to publicize their activities. Any suggestions in this regard should be addressed to the Director of the Special Programme.