

News and Notes

APPROPRIATE TECHNOLOGY FOR HEALTH — WHO NEWSLETTER NO. 1

WHO have recently initiated a novel new series of Newsletters, published by the Appropriate Technology for Health (ATH) programme. The object is “to describe developments in this field both within WHO and amongst the many individuals and organizations interested in this subject throughout the world”.

The extensive development of primary health care services calls for simple inexpensive technologies, some of which have already been in operation in limited areas for a long time. These Newsletters are envisaged as a medium whereby on the one hand practical problems can be publicized and on the other hand where suggestions and possible solutions to them can be shared.

Already WHO have published 2 useful monographs in this field: “Excreta Disposal for Rural Areas and Small Communities” and “Water Supply for Rural Areas and Small Communities”, both by E. G. Wagner and J. N. Lanoix. Special terms for developing countries are obtainable on application to WHO Distribution and Sales Service, 1211 Geneva 27, Switzerland.

The intention now is to invite as many contributions to the Newsletters as possible, and we have been asked to draw the attention of our readers to this. No. 1 includes details of a portable radiographic unit; a simple qualitative test to detect the presence or absence of Vitamin A in dry skimmed milk; the use of bamboo for pressure piping in rural water supplies; flow charts as an aid to diagnosis, with vomiting in the first month of life as one example in a series which should be of practical value to the field worker with only limited training.

The last page of the Newsletter gives short statements of problems for the solution of which ideas are wanted. These diverse problems include two of special relevance to leprosy workers, (a) a simple method of use under field conditions for detecting dapsone in urine, and (b) a simplified technique for distinguishing between viable and dead *M. leprae*. Contributions are invited. The address is: The Editor, ATH Newsletter, World Health Organization, 1211 Geneva 27, Switzerland.

T. F. DAVEY

PERSONAL

Dr S. G. Browne, CMG, OBE

The authorities of King's College Hospital Medical School have recently decided to inaugurate a Fellowship. Not more than three will be awarded in any one year. Among the first three is Dr S. G. Browne, the Secretary Treasurer of the International Leprosy Association.

We congratulate Dr Browne on this honour.