

THE TANZANIA LEPROSY ASSOCIATION

Consequent on the break-up of many of the common services in East Africa, the East African Leprosy Association ceased to be, but the members of its Tanzanian Branch refused to accept this coup de grâce. The happy suggestion that the branch should join forces with the National Leprosy Advisory and Co-ordinating Committee of Tanzania resulted in the creation of the Tanzania Leprosy Association.

His Excellency the Minister of Health of Tanzania, Dr Leader Stirling, officially inaugurated the new Association at an enthusiastic and representative meeting on 25 July 1978 at Arusha, and announced that President Julius Nyerere had consented to be the Patron of the Association.

The first activity of the newly formed Association was to organize and sponsor a highly successful scientific meeting at Arusha. Dr H. Sansarricq, the chief of the Leprosy Section of the Division of Communicable Diseases of the World Health Organization was there; Dr Stanley Browne, Secretary of the International Leprosy Association, brought greeting from the old Association to the new one; Dr Harold Wheate, who was formerly Leprosy Advisor to the government of Tanzania, journeyed from Addis Ababa to participate in the Meeting.

Under the dynamic leadership of Professor G. D. Georgiev of the University of Dar-es-Salaam, and Dr K. Balslev, the Tanzania Leprosy Association should fulfill a real need, and, to judge from the highly successful Scientific

Meeting at Arusha, it should exert a salutary influence on the whole policy and programme of leprosy control in Tanzania and beyond.