

## **News and Notes**

### **DR RUTH PFAU, MD, APPOINTMENT AS FEDERAL ADVISOR FOR LEPROSY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN**

Dr Ruth Pfau, MD Germany, was born on 9 September 1929 in Leipzig, and did her medical studies in what is now called the Eastern Part of Germany. After joining the Order of the Daughters of the Heart of Mary, whose Mother House is in Paris, she was on her way to India. She stayed for a while in Karachi and visited the Marie Adelaide 'hut' Leprosy Clinic, run by her Congregation, in the 'Beggars Colony' off McLeod Road. From the 'hut' has grown the main hospital with 70 beds and large OPD facilities, with 6 sub-centres and a home for crippled patients in Karachi. Present total case load is 12,000. She started the first Leprosy Technicians Course in 1965, and the institute has completed 11 courses, and 125 technicians have been trained both for the Government and private agencies. Dr Pfau, in search of the index cases, has travelled to every hill and valley of Pakistan. Since she has established leprosy services in nearly all the provinces in Pakistan, she has been decorated last year with the Hilal-e-Imtiaz, which is the highest Pakistani Civilian Award in the country, and just recently she has been appointed the Federal Adviser for Leprosy to the Ministry of Health, Government of Pakistan.

### **JAPAN HONOURS DR STANLEY BROWNE**

At an impressive ceremony held in Tokyo recently, which was attended by Prince and Princess Hitachi and many government and civil dignitaries, the 'Special Appreciation Prize' was presented to Dr Stanley Browne, CMG, OBE, by the Nihon Kensho-Kai, a Japanese Foundation, for his outstanding work for leprosy sufferers throughout the world. In the absence of Dr Browne, a representative of the British Council received the prize on his behalf. The Prize consists of a beautiful hand-printed scroll and a cheque.

Dr Browne is the first non-Japanese to receive this prize, which is the highest accolade in the gift of the Japanese Foundation.

**ILEP; 33rd MEETING OF THE MEDICAL COMMISSION, BRUSSELS,  
13 DECEMBER 1979**

This meeting was attended by the following: Dr S G Browne, Dr A Cap (Vice-President), Professor M Harboe, Professor M Lechat, Dr D L Leiker, Professor K F Schaller (President), Dr J. Terencio de las Aguas, Dr Felton Ross, Dr Yo Yuasa and Dr A C McDougall (Rapporteur). Mr Van den Wijngaert, General Secretary, was present during the morning session. Some of the more important items on a day-long agenda included: (1) new ILEP Guidelines for the Campaign against Leprosy. The last issue was in 1976 and it was considered essential to up-date this document in the light of new developments, especially in the matter of treatment; (2) a discussion of future ILEP strategy, with particular attention to what is being achieved with the present expenditure and the possibility of establishing survey teams for the collection of more data on the effectiveness of leprosy control programmes; (3) the assistance of UNICEF to leprosy control programmes; (4) Ethical Guidelines for organizations and individuals raising funds for use on behalf of leprosy sufferers; (5) a questionnaire on clofazimine (Lamprene; B663) from CIBA-GEIGY in Switzerland, asking for cooperation in the matter of obtaining accurate information on the tolerability of this drug, in as many patients as possible; (6) applications for advice or financial support on research projects from medical or scientific workers; (7) 12th International Congress of Leprosy, New Delhi, November 1983 – to which ILEP already has offered very considerable financial support.

The 23rd Working Session of ILEP/13th General Assembly of ILEP will be held in London, at the Strand Palace Hotel, London WC2R GJJ, from Tuesday 17 June to Sunday 22 June, the meeting of the Medical Committee being on Thursday 19 June.

**TWO NEW PUBLICATIONS (TRANSLATIONS) IN PORTUGUESE**

(1) *Memorando Sobre o Controle da Hanseníase*. Stnaley G. Browne.

(2) *A Organização Mundial de Saúde e A Hansenias. 5º Relatório do Comitê Técnico em Hanseníase*.

(1) This is a translation of the joint OXFAM–LEPRA–The Leprosy Mission booklet, *Memorandum on Leprosy Control*. A few copies of this Portuguese version are available in the UK from OXFAM (274 Banbury Road, Oxford OX2 7DZ). In Brazil they can be obtained on application to OXFAM, Caixa Postal 1987, 5000, RECIFE, PE, or CERPHA, Caixa Postal 24046, 20000, Rio de Janeiro, RJ.

(2) This is a translation of the *Fifth Report of the WHO Expert Committee on Leprosy, Technical Report Series 607, WHO, Geneva, 1977*. Copies are available in Brazil from the two addresses given above.

**'ANALYSIS OF RESEARCH NEEDS AND PRIORITIES IN DERMATOLOGY', *THE JOURNAL OF INVESTIGATIVE DERMATOLOGY: SUPPLEMENTAL ISSUE; VOL 73/ NO 5, NOVEMBER 1979, PART II***

This supplement issue of the JID (which is the Official Journal of the Society of Investigative Dermatology, Inc, and the European Society for Dermatological Research) extends to over 100 pages and covers the whole subject of dermatology in America under the following headings: Prevalence, Severity and cost of dermatological diseases; Psoriasis; Eczematous and immunological diseases; Acne; Malignant and benign neoplasms of the skin; Infections and infestations; Birth defects and genetic disorders; Dermatological needs in drugs and instrumentation; Malignant melanoma and vitiligo; Pruritus, pain and sweating disorders and Skin reactions to environmental agents. It does not aim to deal with imported or 'tropical' skin diseases. Dermatologists in training and those who are interested but not specially trained in dermatology will find this supplement of tremendous interest; it is packed with information and achieves the dual purpose of summarizing the current state of knowledge about most of the conditions which are important in American dermatology, while at the same time clearly indicating what remains to be done in the field of research.

[There is a note of particular interest to leprologists on page 475, in a section dealing with the development of drugs of limited commercial value:

'3. *Dapsone*: It has been known for many years that the drug, DDS, or diaminodiphenylsulfone (Dapsone), developed originally for the treatment of leprosy, is also effective for the treatment of dermatitis herpetiformis and several other rare, disabling and chronic skin diseases. DDS has been shown recently to have anti-inflammatory properties, particularly against the mediator bradykinin, which may account for some of its therapeutic activity. Because there are almost no other anti-inflammatory drugs that have distinctive anti-bradykinin effects, it seems inexcusable that DDS should be denied. In the course of a large screening effort to find better antimalarial drugs, the United States Army found that a derivative of DDS known as diformyl dapsone was much more effective than the dapsone itself. To our knowledge, there has been no attempt to investigate this drug further either for several skin conditions for which dapsone (DDS) is now used, or for the treatment of leprosy, which still afflicts tens of millions of people around the world.'

**THE XVI INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF DERMATOLOGY, TOKYO, JAPAN, 1982**

The XVI International Congress of Dermatology will be held in Tokyo, Japan, 23 to 28 May 1982. The Congress includes a scientific programme (special

lectures, case presentations, advances in dermatology, symposia, courses, workshops, informal discussion groups, free communications, poster communications, Japanese Dermatological Association seminars, and a scientific exhibition) and social events (performance of traditional Japanese Kabuki drama, a concert with a world-famous conductor, a short suburban sightseeing tour, and programmes for accompanying persons). The Congress site is the Hotel New Otani, Tokyo's prestige hotel which has been the site of many international congresses. English, French, Spanish, German and Japanese may be used in the Congress, and simultaneous interpretation will be provided during the main educational sessions.

The First Circular including detailed information regarding registration, hotel accommodations and group travel is now available on request to: Prof. Makoto Seiji, MD, Secretary General, The XVI International Congress of Dermatology, CPO Box 1560, Tokyo 100-91, Japan.

All interested persons are cordially invited to participate in the Congress.

#### **COURSES OF INTEREST TO SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL STAFF EMPLOYED IN THE NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE (UK) 1978/1979**

This is a 313-page book prepared by the Chief Scientific Officer's Unit, MED SM4, The Department of Health and Social Security, Alexander Fleming House, Elephant and Castle, London SE1. It reveals that an astonishing number of courses are available in different parts of the UK, and these include various aspects of bacteriology, biochemistry, immunology, immunobiology, medical microbiology, neurological sciences, pharmacological biochemistry, statistics, etc. Over 70 Master of Science (M.Sc.) and post-graduate diploma courses are listed in the introductory pages. The book is available free on application to the above address.

#### **LA LEPRE CHEZ L'ENFANT**

**French translation of 'Leprosy in Childhood'; transparency teaching set with text by TALC, Institute of Child Health, 30 Guilford Street, London WC1N 1EH**

Thanks to a great deal of painstaking work by Michel and Thérèse Thuriaux-Jacques, a complete French translation of this script is now available. Single copies may be obtained from the Editor of *Leprosy Review* in Oxford. This translation applies to Lp, not to the set on classification, LpCn. The actual sets and English scripts should be obtained from TALC in London, as above.

## **PICTORIAL AIDS FOR MEDICAL TEACHING: FROM THE MAGAZINE OF WHO, OCTOBER, 1979**

Colour microfiche, a cost-effective system for disseminating teaching aids, will have a part to play in a special 'illustration bank' on tropical parasitology under WHO's health learning materials programme. The material is being made available in both slide and microfiche form, with explanatory texts.

A microfiche of 84 frames can be produced for around \$100, and copies from this master set may be obtained for less than \$1 each. The same material in slide form would cost about \$35.00 per set.

The first set in the tropical parasitology programme is on schistosomiasis, and may be purchased from the Royal Tropical Institute, Department of Tropical Hygiene, 63 Mauriskade, Amsterdam-Oost, Netherlands. Other sets will be devoted to leprosy, malaria, leishmaniasis, trypanosomiasis, geohelminth infections, filariasis, amoebiasis, other helminth infections and other protozoal infections.

This series is the initial effort in a continuing programme to develop an international slide/microfiche bank on medical and health related subjects.

Several other institutions, particularly in the USA, are producing teaching programmes in this form. The American College of Physicians, Philadelphia, has developed self-instructional units for the continuing education of physicians, each comprising audio cassette, self-assessment test, and colour microfiche.

The University of Washington, Seattle, has also produced similar material in colour microfiche and can arrange to produce it for other organizations under contract.

Further information concerning colour microfiche systems can be obtained from Educational Communication Systems, Division of Health Manpower Development, WHO, Geneva.

## **PORTABLE SLIDE PROJECTOR, WEIGHING LESS THAN 5 Kg**

SEMAT are the UK agents for a Kindermann AV 100 projector which, although not cheap, may be worth consideration by those who travel over large areas and are involved in teaching. The slide projection is fully automatic and shows up on a built-in 18 x 18 cm back projection screen, but it can also be used on a conventional wall screen by simply removing the carrying case lid. There is a continuous cooling fan for slides, even if they jam due to a bad mount. The case is robust and the whole unit weighs less than 5 kg. Apply to SEMAT (UK) 89, Lakeside Road, London N13 4PS.

*SCHISTO UPDATE*, OCTOBER–DECEMBER 1979

Published quarterly in cooperation with the National Library of Medicine, Bethesda, Maryland, through the use of MEDLARS (Medical Literature Analysis and Retrieval System); lists articles on schistosomiasis that have appeared in approximately 2,300 journals.

This publication is comparable to the *Excerpta Medica* system for leprosy (and many other diseases). The extraordinary range and depth of subject matter relating to schistosomiasis alone is a reminder of the fact (taken from the introductory pages of this October–December issue) that ‘Parasitic protozoa and helminths have enormous potential utility as models for the study of regulation of the immune response, the alteration of cell membranes, and genetic control of the induction of new antigens’. Experimental systems currently under study include ‘... the antibody-dependent eosinophil killing of schistosomula, the actions of cytotoxic T cells, and the production of monoclonal antibodies using the lymphocyte hybridoma technique.’

*Update* is issued free of charge to all who request it; from The Edna McConnell Clark Foundation, 250 Park Avenue, New York, New York, 10017, USA