

News and Notes

DR R J W REES; AWARD OF MANSON MEDAL BY THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF TROPICAL MEDICINE AND HYGIENE, LONDON, 1980.

The editorial Board of *Leprosy Review* and the Medical Advisory Board of LEPROA wish to record their most sincere congratulations to Dr R.J.W. Rees on this recent award. To those in other countries who are not familiar with the background of the Manson Medal, the following information may be of interest –

At the outset of the twentieth century, Sir PATRICK MANSON, GCMG, FRS, was the most eminent figure in the field of tropical medicine. Distinguished by his own researches and with a reputation as an outstanding teacher and administrator, he established the scientific basis of tropical medicine. In his own lifetime, he was hailed by Raphael Blanchard of Paris as the ‘Father of Tropical Medicine’.

Sir Patrick was the first President of the Society and remained closely associated with it until the end of his life. In 1921 his friends and admirers from all parts of the world subscribed to a Portrait Fund as a mark of their esteem for him and his work.

After the portrait, which hangs in the Board Room of the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, had been executed, it was decided to use the surplus of the Fund to found a Medal for outstanding contributions to tropical medicine and hygiene. The Council of the Society accepted responsibility for making the award.

The Medal, which is in bronze, bears the likeness of Sir Patrick in profile on the obverse, and on the reverse a garland of oak leaves surrounds the words ‘Tropical Medicine A.D. 1922’, the year in which Sir Patrick died.

The Manson Medal is awarded triennially. It is the Society’s highest mark of distinction.

DR JOHN R. TRAUTMAN: DIRECTOR OF CARVILLE LEPROSARIUM, LOUISIANA, USA. PROMOTION TO ASSISTANT SURGEON GENERAL, APRIL, 1980

We congratulate Dr Trautman, Director of Carville, on his recent promotion to this rank. This is the first time in the history of the United States Public Health

Service that an Assistant Surgeon General has headed a Public Health Service Hospital.

BELGIUM HONOURS DR STANLEY BROWNE

Dr. Stanley Browne's close links with Belgium, following his twenty-three years of service in the former Belgian Congo (now Zaire) as a Baptist medical missionary, have been doubly strengthened recently.

He has been admitted as an Honorary Foreign Member of the Belgian Royal Academy of Medicine. In this capacity, he was invited to present a lecture (in French) on the future prospects for leprosy control at an Open Meeting of the Academy in Brussels on 29 March, 1980.

After the lecture, he was presented with the insignia of Commander of the Order of Léopold, the highest honour accorded by Belgium to a civilian. This was in recognition of his service in Congo, his subsequent interest in the control of diseases endemic in Zaire and his considerable contributions to many aspects of leprosy.

TEACHING AND LEARNING MATERIALS; REVISED BOOK LIST, 1980, THE LEPROSY MISSION (INTERNATIONAL), 50 PORTLAND PLACE, LONDON W1N 3DG

This list gives details of 3 books which are for sale from Delhi, together with over 20 books or publications which may be obtained from the Leprosy Mission in London. Order from 'Teaching and Learning Materials' at the above address.

CONFERENCE ON IMMUNOLOGICAL ASPECTS OF LEPROSY, TUBERCULOSIS AND LEISHMANIASIS, ARMAUER HANSEN RESEARCH INSTITUTE, Ø P.O. BOX 1005, ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA; 27th–30th OCTOBER, 1980.

A summary of the advance information reads –

'This conference will be one of the series of conferences or seminars on the 'Immunology of Communicable Diseases in Africa' held in rotation in different African Countries. The first one was held at AHRI in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia in 1972. The topic of the Seminar was 'Cellular Immunity and Resistance of Leishmaniasis Leprosy and Tuberculosis in the Tropics'.

The second seminar was held in Ibadan in 1974. The third and fourth seminars were held in Nairobi in 1975 and 1979. The topics at each seminar

were different. This time we at AHRI, Addis Ababa wish to follow the series by having a conference on 'Immunological Aspects of Leprosy, Tuberculosis and Leishmaniasis'. As far as we know this conference will be the only one of its type to be held in Africa since 1972.

Research in the field of leprosy, tuberculosis and leishmaniasis are neglected areas in Africa. We feel that conferences such as we are organizing could play a role in attracting more people in Africa to get involved in immunological research of these diseases. That is also why we wish to have the participants to be from Africa.

Objectives

This conference is to be held in Addis Ababa shall focus to:

- (a) Provide up to date information on immunology and immunopathology of leprosy, tuberculosis and leishmaniasis.
- (b) Exchange views and concepts as well as discuss the current projects between participants and invited lecturers.
- (c) Attract participants more into research of leprosy, tuberculosis and leishmaniasis.
- (d) Help establish collaborative projects between laboratories, especially between established and developing laboratories.

LEPROSY SYMPOSIUM IN TURKEY

The First National Symposium on Leprosy held in Istanbul from 9 to 11 April 1980 attracted some 300 participants from all over Turkey. Thanks to the dynamic initiative of Professor Turkan Saylan and the generous financial help of the Damien Foundation, the Symposium represented all shades of medical opinion in Turkey, from the Ministry of Health and the Universities, to Schools of Nursing and research workers.

Invited resource persons who gave much-appreciated papers included Professor M.F. Lechat (of the Damien Foundation), Drs. H. Sansarricq (of the W.H.O.), S.G. Browne, S. Pattyn, M.F.R. Waters and Harold Wheate, and Miss Jean Watson. Speakers from the Ministry of Health, and Professor Saylan herself, made valuable contributions.

In a population variously estimated at between 35 and 43 millions, there are at present 3910 leprosy patients under treatment, of whom about 60% are suffering from multibacillary forms of the disease. Several discussants considered that registered cases constitute a small proportion of the true total and that non-lepromatous leprosy is not being recognized and diagnosed. The 27,000 doctors at present working in Turkey, graduates of the 19 medical schools, are mainly concentrated in the centres of population, notably Isanbul and Ankara.

As far back as 1962, a progressive and forward-looking programme for leprosy control in Turkey was officially promulgated. Gone are the days when doctors examined leprosy patients through a protective barrier of thick plate glass, but stigma still effectively isolates leprosy sufferers and prevents the true integration of leprosy into the programme of socialized medical care. In rural areas, leprosy shares with other disease the disparity of available doctors – 1 for 426 people in Istanbul, and 1 for 26,722 in the villages.

With the undoubted interest now aroused by the Symposium, the outlook for leprosy control in Turkey should in future be decidedly brighter, and the continued help of voluntary organizations both inside the country and without should prove of crucial importance.

S G BROWNE

LEPRA: PRIZE ESSAY COMPETITION FOR MEDICAL STUDENTS IN THE UNITED KINGDOM, 1980; EITHER – ‘THE RISE AND FALL OF LEPROSY IN EUROPE’ OR ‘BCG VACCINATION IN TUBERCULOSIS AND LEPROSY’.

Since 1972, first in Oxford, then in Birmingham and Edinburgh, LEPRA, the British Leprosy Relief Association, has annually offered prize money of £100 for essays on various aspects of the leprosy problem. In 1977, it was decided to extend the offer to all universities with a medical faculty in the United Kingdom. The response has been encouraging, and the competition is therefore being continued in 1980 with the above alternative titles.

Entry requires neither clinical experience nor original work; essays will be most welcome from students in the junior years of medical study.

Candidates will be expected to summarise published work on either of the above subjects and to review it critically, recording their own comments in the form of a discussion or summary. No credit will be given for the mere reproduction of material which has already been published in books or journals; students should concentrate more on constructive comments and critical appraisal of what has so far been accomplished in the study of these two aspects of leprosy. Each candidate should choose only one of the above subjects.

References should be included as in scientific journals.

Entries should be typed on A4 paper, double-spaced with good margins, and should be of not more than 10,000 words. However length is not important and in previous years prizes have been awarded for essays of only 3,000 words.

The closing date is 31 December 1980.

A similar competition is being organised by LEPRA this year in Zambia.

THE THIRD INTERNATIONAL LEPROSY CONGRESS, HELD IN EGYPT, MARCH 1980

Organized jointly by Professor M. El Zawahry and Dr. S.G. Browne, the third International Leprosy Congress for Arab countries was held in Egypt from 24 to 28 March 1980. Unlike the two previous Congresses in the series, this Congress was exclusively devoted to leprosy and did not include sessions on tropical dermatology or mycology. Some excellent papers were presented by Egyptian research workers. Two days were spent in Cairo itself, at the headquarters of the Egyptian Medical Association and in the Dermatology Department of the Cairo General Hospital, where a wide range of clinical presentations of leprosy was demonstrated.

Another day was spent in the Alexandria Medical School, and another in the Tanta University Medical School. Considerable interest was aroused by Dr. Browne's papers on: 'Modern ideas on the treatment of leprosy'. 'Drug resistance in leprosy', and 'The criteria for early diagnosis of leprosy'.

In view of both the increasing incidence of leprosy in Egypt and the growing awareness of many doctors of the importance of diagnosing leprosy in its early stages, the time is probably ripe for the organization of a nationwide effort to bring under treatment the suspectedly large numbers of leprosy sufferers remaining undiagnosed. The Ministry of Public Health would apparently welcome such an initiative and give it wholehearted support, and the co-operation of voluntary agencies already active in this field in Egypt would be appreciated.

EXCERPTA MEDICA; LEPROSY AND RELATED SUBJECTS; SECTION 51; 1980; VOL 2, ISSUE 2.

Subscription information; Elsevier Science Division, P.O. Box 211, 1000 AE Amsterdam, the Netherlands.

Issue Number 2 for this year is once again a mine of information on leprosy and related subjects, particularly the latter. Despite the main title of this Section 51, related subjects (mainly tuberculosis) now have a considerable preponderance; this issue has 169 entries, of which – if one counts those under 'leprosy', 'lepromin' and '*Mycobacterium leprae*' in the index – only 16 are in fact directly related to leprosy.

WHO: NEWSLETTER; THE SPECIAL PROGRAMME FOR RESEARCH AND TRAINING IN TROPICAL DISEASES' No 14, APRIL 1980.

Apart from the usual excellent and high readable accounts of progress in various aspects of this Programme, this number contains the following important announcement –

Tropical disease research series

The second and third volumes of the Tropical Diseases Research (TDR) Series are now off press:

TDR 2. *The Membrane Pathobiology of Tropical Diseases* (List price, Swiss francs 30.00); and

TDR 3. *Cultivation of the Pathogens of Tropical Diseases* (List price, Swiss francs 52.00)

Copies of both volumes are available *free of charge to institutions and scientists in the Developing Endemic Countries*; on request from the Office of the Director, Special Programme. Other interested persons may order direct from the publisher: Schwabe & Co. AG, Steinentorstrasse 13, 4010 Basel, Switzerland.

Copies of TDR 1, *The Role of the Spleen in the Immunology of Parasitic Diseases* (List price, Swiss francs 38.00), are still available on the same terms as stated above.