

Reports, News and Notes

LEPRA; 60th Anniversary Year, 1924–1984

LEPRA celebrates its Diamond Jubilee in 1984. The Association, initially known as the British Empire Leprosy Relief Association (BELRA), was set up in 1924 by a former secretary to the Mission for Lepers in India, Frank Oldrieve, Sir Leonard Rogers an ex-Major General in the Indian Medical Service, and philanthropist Sir Frank Carter. With the Prince of Wales as its patron and the support of a wide range of notable and interested people, the Association was launched with the aim of ridding the British Empire of leprosy. Highlights of the Diamond Jubilee year will include—a £100,000 jewellery appeal: 'An Eye for a Gem, a Gem for an Eye', to be launched in January, the proceeds to be used to prevent blindness in leprosy sufferers; a prestige auction of the jewellery donated to this appeal; an anniversary thanksgiving service in All Hallows by the Tower, London in February; major UK participation in the 12th International Leprosy Congress in New Delhi this year, and a wide range of fund-raising and publicity events by LEPRA branches throughout Britain in 1984.

Simple Orthopaedic Aids; appropriate designs for a developing country: Chris Dartnell

This is a paperback of 45 pages, approximately A4 format. The introduction reads:

'The book aims to set out in simple detail how to set up a workshop and produce these orthopaedic aids in a country where resources are scarce but the need is very great. The Khartoum Cheshire Home is taken as the model but the principle involved is applicable, with slight modifications, to meet most other situations. The information is intended for physiotherapists, nurses, health workers, heads of Projects; local workers; in fact anyone wanting to produce aids for the rehabilitation of handicapped people.'

A press release adds the following information:

European aids for the handicapped are not suitable for Third World countries where the terrain varies widely, local labour is not expert and sophisticated materials are too expensive or not available. Yet though resources are so limited, the need for aids is very great and the provision of them can mean restoring a man or woman from helplessness to leading a useful, meaningful life. *Simple Orthopaedic Aids* covers how to set up a workshop with full details and simple drawings on the production of orthopaedic aids for the rehabilitation of the handicapped using locally available materials and technology appropriate to the circumstances. These aids include a wide range of callipers, clogs, shoes, walking frames, a basic pylon, splints and wheelchairs. It will be an invaluable guide to anyone working in or near to the field of rehabilitation for handicapped people in underdeveloped countries.

Available from Chris Dartnell, The Leonard Cheshire Foundation International, Leonard Cheshire House, 26–29 Maunsell Street, London SW1 2QN. Price £2.50 plus 30p postage and packing per copy. Overseas, £2.00 per copy postage and packing.

An Atlas of Leprosy: Sasakawa Memorial Health Foundation, 1983

We acknowledge with thanks receipt of this beautifully produced atlas from the executive and Medical Director of SMHF, Tokyo. This is a strongly constructed, loose-leaf paperback of 57 pages and represents a revised version of the 'Atlas' which was issued by SMHF about 2 years ago. The first 42 pages have large colour pictures of virtually all aspects of clinical leprosy; pages 43–51 illustrate the main histopathological findings; and the remainder of the 'Atlas' is devoted to differential diagnosis. The quality throughout is of an exceptionally high standard and this is without doubt the best atlas of its kind so far produced for the study of leprosy. Many of the photographs, especially those of children, approach life size, and would be invaluable as an exhibit in a teaching centre and also easily visible at a range of several metres during small-group teaching. Dr Yo Yuasa indicates in his Postscript that 3000 copies have been produced and that it is hoped to '... distribute this edition to many stations in the field where peripheral health workers are expected to recognise or even diagnose and classify various types of leprosy, in addition to training centres and educational institutions.'

The Foundation is to be congratulated on the production of this Atlas, which should be of the greatest value to all who are concerned with clinical and histopathological aspects of leprosy.

Reconstructive surgery in leprosy: 1 Opponents plasty; 2 Correction of clawed fingers—colour transparency sets and text. N H Antia and S G Kamat, Bombay, 1983

These excellent slide sets describe two of the most important operations for deformities of the hand in leprosy. The first has 24, and the second 48 colour slides of high quality, which are designed '... to provide an easy introduction to the subject and stimulate interest for further reading and for undertaking surgery.' The text is extremely clear for both operations and could be used either for self-instruction or teaching others. The cost of (1) is Rs.250 and of (2) Rs.500. Enquiries to Dr N H Antia, Ben Nevis, Bhalabhai Desai Road, Bombay-400 036, India.

Symposium on monoclonal antibodies in Reading, UK, April 1983

Ortho Diagnostic Systems sponsored a 1-day symposium, attended by 250 participants in April 1983, which was aimed at the presentation of an overview of the potential of lymphocyte markers in helping with the diagnosis of a wide range of disorders. It was commented that the use of OKT reagents can both clarify diagnosis and monitor response to therapy. All speakers produced data to show that the ratio of T-helper cells (OKT-4 positive) to T-suppressor cells (OKT-8 positive) was changed in disease states or in response to therapy. The subject was dealt with by four main speakers under the headings of: Monoclonal antibody production and application; malignant melanoma monitoring; T-cell detection and thrombocytopenia; T- and B- cell involvement in bone marrow transplantation and monoclonal antibodies and instrumentation. Source: *Medical Laboratory World*, June 1983, 33 Bowling Green Lane, London EC1B 1EH.

Heiser Research Program for Research in Leprosy, 1984

This well-known organization has issued details of the awards which will be available in 1984. As in previous years, these are offered under the headings of: postdoctoral research fellowships; research grants; visiting research awards. There is an excellent summary of the state of 'Leprosy Research Today', which gives some indication of the priorities this organization has in mind. The Scientific Advisory Committee is composed of Maelyn McCarty, Lane Barksdale, Barry Bloom and Charles Shepard. Further details from Mrs Barbara M Hugnet, Director, Heiser Program for Research in Leprosy, 450 East 63rd Street, New York, New York 10021, USA.

Raoul Follereau Grant for Leprosy Research, 1984

The Italian Leprosy Relief Association 'Amici di Raoul Follereau,' an organization for international health cooperation, offers a grant of US \$20,000 for leprosy research, named after Raoul Follereau, to a young research worker in a European department. The object of the grant is to stimulate the undertaking of original research in the field of leprosy in a research department in Europe.

The precise conditions were finalized at the recent meeting of the Federation of Anti-Leprosy Associations (ILEP) in Berne, Switzerland in June 1983, and will shortly be distributed to all ILEP members, leprosy journals and appropriate institutions, including universities and research centres, in Europe. Meanwhile, further details may be obtained from 'Amici di Raoul Follereau,' via Borselli, 4—40135 Bologna, Italy. Tel. 051/423809—433402.

Damien-Dutton Award for Dr Ma Haide, Peking, China

Dr Ma Haide (George Hatem), a well-known Chinese dermatologist, was honoured with the 1982 award for Leprosy Aid by the Damien-Dutton Society on 16 April at the United States embassy in Beijing. The society, through its president, Howard E Crouch, asked the American Ambassador Arthur W Hummel Jr to officiate at the ceremony.

The American-born doctor first came to China in 1933 and joined the Red Army in North China in 1936 to do wartime medical work. After 1949, he took part in the drive to wipe out venereal disease and leprosy. After the former was eliminated in the late 1950s, he concentrated on leprosy. Invited by the Damien-Dutton Society, Dr Ma and two other Chinese specialists made a medical tour of eight countries in 1982.

Speaking at the ceremony, Dr Ma said that in 1949, China had an estimated half a million leprosy patients. Now the number has dropped to about 200,000. He pointed out that China is aiming at the full control and basic eradication of leprosy by the year 2000. The country has 10,000 full-time medical personnel, 86,000 beds and more than 1100 institutions, hospitals and villages to fight leprosy. The cost of treatment is paid by the state. A basic food subsidy is provided for all institutionalized patients.

The award was inaugurated in 1953 and named after the Belgian priest Father Damien de Veuster and the American layman coworker, William Dutton. Source: *Chinese Med J*, 1983, **96**: No. 7.

Technical Guide for Smear Examination for Leprosy by Direct Microscopy

Published by the Leprosy Documentation Service (INFOLEP) at the Royal Tropical Institute, Mauritskade 61a, 1092 AD Amsterdam, the Netherlands, this 34-page paperback booklet covers all main aspects of smear examination. It was produced with the support of the Netherlands Leprosy Relief Association and the Ordre Militaire et Hospitalier de Saint Lazare de Jerusalem in the Netherlands.

The main headings include—introduction; technique of smear-taking; technique of staining; examination by microscopy. Five thousand copies have been printed in English and arrangements are being made for its translation and printing in French, Spanish and Portuguese.