

Reports, News and Notes

Heiser Program for Research in Leprosy, 1984

Once again this program has sent details of the awards which are offered. These fall under the headings of post-doctoral research fellowships, research grants and visiting research awards. The Scientific Advisory Committee includes Maclyn McCarty, W Lane Barksdale, Barry Bloom and Charles Shepard. Applications and enquiries to Mrs Barbara Hugonnet, Director, Heiser Program for Research in Leprosy, 450 East 63rd Street, New York, New York 10021, USA.

Derrick Dunlop Travelling Fellowship, 1984

Applications are now being invited for the Derrick Dunlop Fellowship, which was created by the Winthrop Foundation and is administered by the Royal College of Physicians, Edinburgh. The Fellowship is open to Fellows and Members of the Royal Colleges of Physicians in the United Kingdom and Ireland, and provides up to £5,000 over a period not exceeding 2 years. The extent of tenure into the second year will depend upon the submission of a satisfactory interim report at the end of 12 months.

It is envisaged that the Fellow will already occupy a full-time university, National Health Service or other salaried post and will use his Fellowship to travel to centres at home or abroad. Proposals for studies in Clinical Pharmacology, Therapeutics and related disciplines, including national differences in prescribing practice, would be supported. The studies should be of a standard that might be expected to lead to a submission for the degree of MD or PhD, or for publication.

Applications should include a curriculum vitae, a synopsis of approximately 1,200 words describing the proposed study, and the names of two referees. Intending applicants should apply for the appropriate form to the Secretary, Royal College of Physicians, 9 Queen Street, Edinburgh EH 12 1JQ.

LEPRA Prize Essay Competition for Medical Students in the UK, 1984

Following the tradition of the past 10 years or more, LEPRA is organizing a prize essay competition for UK medical students in 1984, with the following titles. 'Monoclonal antibodies and recombinant DNA technology: present and future use in leprosy and tuberculosis' OR 'Leprosy will be most expediently controlled by the continued use of vertical, specialized programmes' OR 'Leprosy will be most expediently controlled by the use of fully integrated programmes which make use of the primary health care approach'. Full details will be sent to all medical schools in the UK early in 1984. Enquiries may also be directed to the Editor of this Journal, or to LEPRA, Fairfax House, Causton Road, Colchester CO1 1PU.

Takemi Fellowships in International Health

The Takemi Program in International Health invites applications from promising graduates of Advanced Degree programmes and mid-career professionals with relevant backgrounds, for Fellowships in Research and Advanced Training on critical problems in international health, especially those concerned with less developed countries. For information write to Professor David E Bell, Acting Director, Takemi Program in International Health, Harvard School of Public Health, 665 Huntington Avenue, Building 1, Boston MA 02115, USA.

Raoul Follereau Grant for Leprosy Research

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. Further details may be obtained from 'Amici di Raoul Follereau', via Borselli, 4-40135 Bologna, Italy. Tel. 051/423809-433402.

Histopathology Services for Developing Countries

Professor Michael Hutt retired from St Thomas' Hospital in London in September 1983 and recently issued the following letter concerning histopathology services, which include the examination of biopsies for leprosy:

'For the last 15 years the department of Histopathology at St Thomas' Hospital has provided a free, postal, diagnostic service for a number of hospitals, both government and mission, in developing countries. It was originally envisaged that the need for such services would decrease as they were built up locally. For a variety of reasons, differing from country to country, this has not happened and the need is still there and likely to continue. To meet these problems and to provide histopathological expertise in parasitic, communicable and other tropical diseases in the UK a new consultative histopathologist post has been created jointly with the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine and University College Hospital Medical School. This post has just been filled by the appointment of Dr S B Lucas who has spent 2 of the last 4 years in this unit and 2 in the Pathology Department at Nairobi. My own full-time post will terminate in September when I retire, though I will continue my involvement with developing countries on a part-time basis.

Dr Lucas is keen to maintain or increase the diagnostic services for tropical countries and we hope to raise funds to cover the expenses of such work.

As from 6 April 1983, I would be grateful if you could re-route your postal specimens to him:

Dr S B Lucas, Department of Morbid Anatomy, School of Medicine, University College London, University Street, London WC1. Telephone 01-387 9300.

I hope to remain in contact with you through my association with Dr Lucas and I am sure that he will provide you with an excellent service.'

M S R Hutt, *Professor of Geographical Pathology*

Bureau for Overseas Medical Service (BOMS), London

This is a charity for health workers who are interested in working in the Third World countries of Asia, Africa, the Caribbean and South America. BOMS offers career advice and information about jobs in hospitals, clinics, missions, primary health care units and teaching establishments. Enquiries from doctors with provisional or full registration in the UK are welcomed. The BOMS register has been enlarged to include all health workers, including paramedical workers with state registration and 2 years' working experience. Nurses must be SRN with a higher teaching qualification.

Anyone interested in joining the register or knowing of a vacancy for a health worker in the Third World is invited to contact Colin Jacobs, Secretary, Bureau for Overseas Medical Service, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, Keppel Street, London WC1E 7HT, telephone 01-636 8636 ext. 232.

ILEP Catalogue on Training 1984

ILEP (International Federation of Anti-Leprosy Associations) has issued a catalogue of training centres in various parts of the world, which gives full details of the courses offered, main subjects taught, etc., English and French text. The centres include those in ALERT, Ethiopia; Bamako, Mali; Bauru, Brazil; Carville, USA; Fontilles, Spain; Karigiri, India; Mexico City, Mexico; Yaounde, Cameroon; and Dakar, Senegal. Copies are available from ILEP, 234 Blythe Road, London W14 OHJ, or from ILEP representatives

MD Thesis with High Commendation and Gold Medal for Dr M Elizabeth Duncan, Edinburgh

It is with the greatest of pleasure that we record the award of the degree of MD in the University of Edinburgh, with high commendation and gold medal to Dr M Elizabeth Duncan, for her work on 'A prospective clinico-pathological study of pregnancy and leprosy in Ethiopia'. Following a series of distinguished publications (and there are more to come), this is a richly deserved award for her many years of work, mainly in Ethiopia, on this subject.

Physical Therapy Training Manual, 1983; the Leprosy Mission International

We are extremely grateful to Dr Mrs E S Thangaraj for sending a copy of the TLMI *Physical Therapy Training Manual*, which she has edited. It is published by TLMI at 4th Floor, Sheela House, 73-74 Nehru Place, New Delhi-110019, India. This is a strongly constructed paperback of 122 pages, very well presented and a pleasure to read. A series of clearly stated objectives (1-13) form the basis of the text and there are then 10 annexures on clinical features, nerve palpation, nerve damage, neuritis, treatment, plaster work, splints and case assessment. Appendices follow on footwear, tools, ulcers, dressing, POP casts and dorsal incision. This manual reveals the depth of experience and knowledge of some of the best people working in physical therapy in leprosy and it should be of enormous practical value.

AGFUND; Arab Gulf Programme for United Nations Development Organizations

This organization was created in 1981 by seven Arab Gulf States (Bahrain, Iraq, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates). Its objectives are to support development and social efforts in developing countries; to organize and coordinate assistance by Arab Gulf States to activities of UN agencies and their development programmes; to direct this aid towards specific development projects benefiting the underprivileged populations. Priority is given to projects of a humanitarian and developmental nature. WHO Press Release of 22 April 1983 records that large sums of money had been allocated to: 1 the prevention of blindness in Bangladesh, Mali and Nepal; 2 TB control programmes in India, Morocco, Pakistan, Panama and

Upper Volta; and 3 to maternal and child health, including family planning in Bahrain. Offices are at P.O. Box 22912, Muharraq, Bahrain and P.O. Box 18371, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

Royal National Institute for the Blind, London, Catalogue of Apparatus and Games

The Royal National Institute for the Blind, 224 Great Portland Street, London W1N 6AA (Telephone 01-388-1266), produces three documents which give detailed information about apparatus, games and specially designed articles for the blind. The first is a simple list of publications in print, prospectuses for various schools, training centres and special centres for the blind. The second is a price-list of all articles which are available from the RNIB, dated April 1983. And the third is an illustrated catalogue of 67 pages, with index, which describes a remarkable range of apparatus which is available from this organization—if not free, at very reasonable prices, and with reductions for certain categories of applicant, including blind people in the UK. The main subject matter includes: Braille equipment of all kinds; writing frames, stationery devices; clocks, watches and timers; games; maps and globes; mathematical apparatus; rules and measures; tools and aids for carpenters, the deaf-blind, gardeners, handicrafts, householders, musicians, physiotherapists and typists. Those unfamiliar with the world of the blind will be amazed at the breadth and ingenuity of the apparatus and articles described in this catalogue. Whilst many, perhaps the majority, have been developed for blind, or partially-sighted people in developed countries, others could be valuable anywhere in the world, though they might well need adaptation to local conditions. If applying to the above address for these documents, pre-paid postage would be appreciated.

Clinical ophthalmology: a Text and Colour Atlas. James L Kennerley Bankes

The author works in a London teaching hospital and the book has been written 'for those requiring some specialized knowledge of ophthalmology in their work and it is hoped that the needs of medical students, general medical practitioners and those beginning a career in ophthalmology will be met'. As the publishers state in their 'promotion' summary this is indeed a superbly illustrated atlas. The chapter headings include: examination of the eye; use of instruments; refractive errors, rapid changes in refractive errors; colour and vision defects; age changes in the eye; eyelid conditions; watering of the eyes; lacrimal disease; red (inflamed) eyes; eye injuries and first aid; strabismus (squint); cataract and lens displacement; glaucoma; orbital disease; fundus conditions; optic nerve and visual pathway disorders. There is a full index. No attempt is made to deal with tropical conditions in the eye but those embarking on ophthalmology in any part of the world should surely find this text-atlas of the greatest value and, by comparison with most medical books these days, it is excellent value. Price £9.95(\$15.00 US) 125 pages, reinforced paperback, quarto, Churchill Livingstone, 1982

The Council for International Organizations of Medical Sciences (CIOMS)

A very successful Round Table was held in Geneva on 7-9 December 1983, under the auspices of the CIOMS of which the International Leprosy Association is a founder-member. The international participants were representative of very diverse interests—from research scientists to animal welfare organizations, and from pharmaceutical companies to WHO officials. It was news to many of the participants that leprosy is still indebted to the use of experimentally infected animals for much of the research that has resulted in new knowledge and better treatment regimens. The wide use of the elegant mouse foot-pad inoculation technique in proving drug resistance (both secondary and primary) and the presence of persister organisms, appears at present to be mandatory: there are no alternative methods. Furthermore, the provision of quantities of *M. leprae* from experimentally infected armadillos is crucial for the development of a specific protective vaccine or of immunoprophylactic procedures. As the result of the papers presented at this Round Table and the ensuing discussions, a set of guidelines will be drawn up and widely distributed to governments, research institutes, animal welfare organizations, etc., to form the basis of practice, and perhaps, legislation.

Sasakawa Memorial Health Foundation, Japan.

We gratefully acknowledge receipt of the following documents:

1 *Sasakawa Memorial Health Foundation, 1982*. Background of establishment. Basic principles for our project formulation; mode of action; programme planning; outline of programme (fact-finding missions and consultations, international seminars, workshops and conferences, research, training of health workers in leprosy, technical cooperation by the experts, supply of drugs and equipment, other activities). This is an 18-page booklet, published by a grant from the Japan Shipbuilding Industry Foundation (JSIF).

2 *Basic Epidemiological Indicators for Monitoring Leprosy Control* by M F Lechat and M Vanderveken, 1983. This is a 24-page booklet from the Department of Epidemiology in the University of Louvain in Brussels, packed with valuable information under the main headings of: 1 Crude rates—prevalence, incidence; 2 Specific rates; and 3 The trends in incidence rates. There is a list of 32 references.

3 *Leprosy in Japan, 1983*. Edited by Dr Fujio Ohtani, Ministry of Health and Welfare. The main headings are: Historical background; leprosy situation in Japan (mainland and Okinawa) and conclusions. This is a 28-page booklet, which includes Appendices of the location and names of leprosaria in Japan, the Leprosy Prevention Laws and the Global Geographical Distribution of Leprosy from WHO Weekly Epidem. Rec., No 3, 1979.

4 *English Publications of the Foundation, 1983*. This is the complete list of: A Proceedings of the International Workshops; B Proceedings of other meetings (National and International), and C Other publications, including those on Sasakawa fellowships, *Health for All by the Year 2000* (Dr H T Mahler), the *Way Toward the Eradication of Hansen's Disease* (Professor M F Lechat), *Leprosy in China* (Dr S G Browne) and the 1981 and 1983 *Atlases of Leprosy*, both prepared in the Philippines.