

Reports, News and Notes

LEPRA: Sixth Clayton Memorial Lecture; April 1984: ‘Leprosy and the Eye’

The Clayton Memorial Lecture was established by LEPRA in 1973 as a tribute to the late Reverend P B Clayton, CH, MD, DD, Founder Padre of Toc H. In this decision, LEPRA was mindful of the fact that it was Dr Clayton’s personal inspiration which was responsible in 1933 for the establishment of the Overseas Staff of this Association, and that he maintained a life-long interest in the control of this disease. Through the years the speakers have been as follows:

1974, Dr R J W Rees, ‘Science and leprosy—progress and problems in “applied” research’; 1975, Dr A C McDougall, ‘Leprosy; a continuing challenge to clinical medicine and research’; 1976, Dr T W Meade, ‘How effective is the treatment of leprosy?’; 1978, Dr Tore Godal, ‘Is immunoprophylaxis in leprosy feasible?’; 1980, Dr Noshir Antia, ‘Clinical and experimental studies on the causation of nerve paralysis in leprosy’.

The 1984 lecture was given by Mr Timothy flytche, Consultant Ophthalmologist at St Thomas’s Hospital and Moorfields Hospital, London and his subject was ‘Leprosy and the Eye’. Under the chairmanship of Sir John Wilson of the Royal Commonwealth Society for the Blind, Mr flytche spoke to an audience of over 120 people, including doctors and research workers from various units in London and elsewhere. He described the clinical manifestations of leprosy with particular reference to the eye and gave emphasis to the importance of the epidemiology of eye complications in this disease and to the data which has already been collected by Peace Corps and other volunteers. Much of this work has been supported by grants from LEPRA and results have already been published in *Leprosy Review* and other journals.

Leprosy by S G Browne; Acta Clinica; Documenta Geigy, Switzerland

Many who have used the previous edition of this booklet will be delighted to know that it has now been brought up-to-date and issued as a revised edition, 1984. As before, it is extremely well produced and the illustrations in colour (over 100) are of high quality. All aspects of leprosy are covered. We congratulate Dr Browne and the Medical Department of this company on the renewed production of one of the most valuable booklets of its kind currently available.

Leprosy in India changes its name to Indian Journal of Leprosy

We are grateful to the Assistant Editor for the following information:

The name of this journal *Leprosy in India* has been changed to *Indian Journal of Leprosy* beginning from Volume 56 (1984), and its volume number will be continuous with the present one i.e. Volume 55 (1983). For reference purpose, the new name of the journal shall be abbreviated as *Indian J. Lepr* (*Indian* in full in order to avoid any confusion with *Int.* or *Inter.* standing for *International*).

Leprosy in India was started in 1929 in the nature of ‘Notes’ for circulation amongst workers in India with Dr Ernest Muir as its first Editor. The journal made tremendous progress under the Editorship of Dr Dharmendra who has been editing the journal from 1943 with a brief break of 5 years in the 50s (1955–60) and of 2 years in the 70s (1970–72). Of late it has grown up tremendously owing to increased research activities going on all over the world including India in the field of leprosy and reported in this journal. Therefore it is now considered to be one of the foremost International Journals on Leprosy. In view of its present status, it was strongly felt that there was a need to change the title of the journal suitably in order to ensure that the title reflects the nature and contents of the journal. Suggestions for a suitable title were invited from several Leprologists, and the majority of the opinion was that the title *Indian Journal of Leprosy* (*Indian J. Lepr.*) would be most appropriate. This suggestion was unanimously approved by the Governing Body of the Hind Kusht Nivaran Sangh.

Sasakawa Memorial Health Foundation, Japan

We acknowledge with thanks receipt of the following:

1 *Symposium on Immunotherapy and Immunoprophylaxis of Leprosy*. This is a 55 pp booklet describing a Symposium held in Tokyo in November 1982, with Dr Convit, Dr Zuniga and Dr Ulrich from Caracas as the main speakers. The main headings are: ‘Immunotherapy and Immunoprophylaxis of Leprosy’ (Convit); ‘Epidemiological Orientation in the Immunoprophylaxis in Leprosy’ (Zuniga); ‘Studies of Antibodies in Leprosy and Healthy Contacts by Enzymatic Immunoassay’ (Ulrich).

2 *The Proceedings of the Workshop on Serological Tests for Detecting Subclinical Infection in Leprosy*, Tokyo, Japan, May 1982. The keynote lectures were entitled ‘Fundamental and Practical Requirements of Serological Test for Drafting Subclinical Infection in Leprosy’ (Mashide Abe) and ‘The Phenolic Glycolipid from *Mycobacterium leprae*; Use in Serological Tests’ (Douglas B. Young *et al.*). Further information: The Sasakawa Hall 6F, 3-12-12 Mita, Minato-ku, Tokyo 108, Japan.

Centre for Medical Education, University of New South Wales; Workshop Forum on Evaluation of Training programmes for Primary Health Care, 1983

This is one of a regular series of publications from this centre and it records the proceedings of the intercountry workshop sponsored by WHO in February 1983. The subject headings covered the nature of evaluation, steps in evaluation, the role of the evaluator, analysis and presentation of data. Apply to the above Centre at the University of New South Wales, P.O. Box 1, Kensington, NSW, Australia 2033.

Excerpta Medica Section 51; change in title—Mycobacterial Diseases; Leprosy, Tuberculosis and Related Subjects, 1984

With Volume 6, Issue 1, the publishers draw attention to this change which '... reflects research and application trends in these areas and has been instituted following the suggestions of authorities in this field.' This section is published on behalf of the Leprosy Documentation Service, Royal Tropical Institute, Mauritskade 63, 1092 AD Amsterdam, The Netherlands, and subsidized by The Netherlands Leprosy Relief Association, Amsterdam.

Courses and Training in Pathology in the UK

We are grateful to the National Advice Centre for Postgraduate Medical and Dental Education and Training, 7 Marylebone Road, London NW1 5HH for detailed information on courses and training in pathology in the UK. Information is also available on bacteriology, biochemistry, haematology, neurological science, neurochemistry and physiology, including details of the awarding body for degrees, qualification required before entry, other requirements, timing of the examinations and fees.

'Lamprene' (clofazimine, B663) on leprosy; basic information; CIBA-GEIGY, 1984

This booklet, which was distributed at the recent Delhi Congress, has been completely revised and contains a great deal of information on this valuable drug under the following headings—composition, presentation, absorption, tissue distribution, metabolism and excretion, therapeutic effect, indications, dose schedules, toxicity, tolerability, precautions and references. It was compiled by S J Yawalkar and W A Vischer and is available from Pharma Division, CIBA-GEIGY Ltd., Basle, Switzerland, free of charge.

WHO; *Weekly Epidemiological Record*, 1983, 58, 109–116, Tuberculosis and leprosy

The opening pages of this issue describe the deliberations of a consultative group of epidemiologists who met in Geneva in November 1982 to identify the main problems of immediate importance for tuberculosis and leprosy control, and to indicate areas for research. The text is in English and French. The account will be of great interest to those attempting to control leprosy or tuberculosis—or the 2 diseases together.

WEMOS; Stichting Werkgroep Mediese Ontwikkelingssamenwerking

Mrs Janita Janssen has kindly sent the following information from Amsterdam:

WEMOS, Workgroup for Medical Cooperation in Developing Countries was founded in 1979 by a group of medical students who wanted to gather information about Western aid to developing countries. The group is subsidized by the Dutch ministry for work in developing countries and its purpose is to stimulate a critical way of thinking about development matters. One of our main themes is: underdevelopment is not caused by illness or poverty, but illness and poverty come about because of economic and political factors. Our means are: publishing books and articles; gathering all kinds of documents and books; organizing conferences (1981 on Dutch Aids, Health and Politics; May 1983 on Pharmaceuticals and The Third World; 1984 Policies of Dutch Private and Governmental aid programmes); give readings, and organize workgroups. Our main subjects at the moment are: Position of women in developing countries; Pharmaceuticals and the third world; The big drug companies; Contents of the Dutch aid programmes; and Information to schools.

At the moment WEMOS has about 600 members in Holland, and regional groups have been set up in 6 other big cities. Members come from all kinds of disciplines, mainly concerned with health and anthropology. Address: WEMOS, Minahassastraat 1, Amsterdam-Oost, The Netherlands.

NOVIB; Netherlands Organization for International Development Cooperation

We are grateful to Miss Ingrid Kalf in INFOLEP, Amsterdam for contacting this organization in the Netherlands, who have sent the following information: In 1954, the action group Plein 1954 and the National Hugenholz Committee took an initiative in establishing a 'Netherlands Organization for International Assistance' (Novib). Plein 1954 strove to break through ecclesiastical, societal, and political isolation. The Hugenholz Committee drew attention to needs in less-developed countries. Both wanted to bind together as many Dutch institutions as possible as members in the new Novib. In this way, virtually everyone in the Netherlands would have the chance to get in touch with Novib, at least indirectly. It took 2 years to get 70 Dutch organizations together. On 23 March 1956, the founding of Novib became a fact: the first, and for the time being, only, non-ecclesiastical, non-political Dutch foundation created to respond to problems in developing countries.

An excellent brochure is available with further details, including brief descriptions of the work of this organization in Cape Verde, Sri Lanka and Bolivia, from Novib, 7 Amaliastraat, 2514 JC, The Hague, Netherlands.

Graves Medical Audiovisual Library; Catalogue of Tape and Slide Programmes, 1983

Fay Fontana, Administrator/Marketing Manager of this Library, Holly House, 220 New London Road, Chelmsford, Essex CM2 9BJ, United Kingdom (Tel: 0245-83351) has written to confirm that there are in fact over 1000 titles listed in the current catalogue. New items are constantly being added. The material includes tape-slide and video-tape programmes. The catalogue runs to well over 100 pages and almost every imaginable aspect of medicine in the broadest sense is covered. [But it is highly regrettable that there is nothing on leprosy, all previous material having fallen out-of-date. For an organization with such remarkable national and international influence, surely this defect should be corrected without delay. *Editor*]

BWINO from Zambia; Special Position Paper Number 4, on Leprosy Control

A few months ago we received this dynamic publication from Lusaka, Zambia. Previous position papers in this series have been on nutrition and diarrhoea, the energy/protein issue and infant feeding. This one on leprosy has been prepared with the objective of providing a manual to keep health workers in leprosy up to date with leprosy in general and with some of the problems which are of particular relevance in Zambia. Leprosy control policy for the country is described in full. Then follow sections on diagnosis, classification, skin smears, treatment complications and their treatment, shoemaking, assessment, discharge and release from control. We congratulate Dr Richard de Soldenhoff on this initiative; the whole presentation is extremely clear, easily read and of just the right length. Others would do well to copy this example and may consider contacting the Leprosy Specialist, P.O. Box 30205, The Ministry of Health, Lusaka, Zambia, Africa.

University of Dundee; Centre for Medical Education

For over 8 years this teaching centre has run courses for medical teachers on a variety of topics, including assessment teaching methods and curriculum planning. Those in 1984 include 'Effective Teaching in Medical Education', 'Assessment in Medical Education' and 'Curriculum Planning in Medical Education'. The duration of each is for a few days only and accommodation can be arranged; fees are moderate. Apply (for 1985) to The Centre for Medical Education, The University, Dundee DD1 4HN (Tel: 0382-23181).

Learn about leprosy: Leprosy Mission International, London

This is a strongly produced paperback of 20 pages, illustrated in black and white and colour, giving a simple account of leprosy in terms which are understandable to the layman. The headings are: Leprosy Today; The Cause; Nerve Damage; The Feet; The Face; Isolation; Treatment; Surgery; and Control. The text and design are by David Huggett, originally produced in 1979. This is a first-rate booklet which must surely be of great value for non-medical people in the UK and elsewhere who want to learn the facts from a reasonably short text. Apply: TLMI, 50 Portland Place, London W1N 3DG, United Kingdom.

The Journal of Audiovisual Media in Medicine

The publishers have kindly supplied the following information: In 1978 the Institute of Medical and Biological Illustration launched *The Journal of Audiovisual Media in Medicine* to replace *Medical and Biological Illustration* as the official journal of the Institute. *The Journal of Audiovisual Media in Medicine* is designed to appeal to those involved in the production of audiovisual media be they photographers, artists, graphic designers, cinematographers, television personnel, audiovisual specialists, educational technologists, or manufacturers of audiovisual hardware and software. *Editor*: K P Duguid, Department of Medical Photography and Illustration, Westminster Hospital Medical School, 17 Page Street, London SW1P 2AP, UK.

INTRAH; International Training in Health, University of North Carolina, USA

The Coordinator, Catherine Murphy, has kindly brought us up to date on this organization and the following is an extract from her letter: '... Let me first explain that the African Health Training Institutions Project ended several years ago. Dr James Lea is currently the director of the Program for International Training in Health (INTRAH). INTRAH, funded by the Agency for International Development, Washington, DC, conducts training of paramedical and auxiliary health personnel in Africa and the Middle East. The primary training topics are Maternal and Child Health Care and Family Planning.

The INTRAH Program has developed and is developing educational material to supplement training in the Africa/Middle East regions. For example, Ms Elizabeth M Edmands, INTRAH's Public Health Nurse Educator, has written a manual, *Concepts and Issues in Family Planning: Guidelines for Nurses, Midwives, and Other Health Personnel*, and the Educational Materials Unit of INTRAH is currently developing an *Audio-Visual Aids Training Manual*. Further information is obtainable from Educational Materials Unit, Program for International Training in Health, The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, 208 North Columbia Street, (344A), Chapel Hill, North Carolina 27514, USA.

Bureau for Overseas Medical Service (BOMS), London

BOMS has recently moved to a permanent office in the Africa Centre, a cultural and educational centre, in Covent Garden. This growing charity runs a register for doctors and health workers who are interested in working in the Third World. There are currently 543 doctors and 157 paramedical workers on the register.

Recent placements include sending an orthopaedic surgeon to work with the *Malawi Against Polio* project and a physiotherapist to South Lebanon to work on a joint Oxfam-Middle East Council of Churches project in the Ain El Hilweh Refugee Camp. The constant demand for medical personnel to fill vacancies like these shows the need for an efficient register. The *Bureau* acts as clearing house rather than recruiting agency and it aims to eliminate the problems and costs of communication for those who can least afford them in terms of time and money.

For further information please contact the Secretary, Jane Lethbridge, Bureau for Overseas Medical Service, Africa Centre, 38 King Street, London WC2E 8JT, UK. Tel: 01-836 5833.

The Heiser Program for Research in Leprosy

Beginning postdoctoral research fellowships, research grants, and visiting research awards available in amounts up to \$18,000 per year, plus other allowances. Applicants should have MD, PhD, or equivalent degree. Applications by February 1 1985, for awards to be activated June–December, 1985. For information write: The Heiser Program, 450 East 63rd Street, New York, New York 10021, USA.

LEPRA Prize Essay Competitions for Medical Students in the UK and India

United Kingdom. Following the tradition of previous years (started in 1972) LEPRA offered prize money for an essay on a leprosy subject in 1983, and the first prize was awarded to Nicola Strickland (Green College, Oxford) for her entry on the subject of 'The influence of immunosuppression and immunodeficiency on infections with leprosy and tuberculosis'. Her essay will be published in the medical press in 1985. Second prize was awarded to Roderick MacRorie (Green College, Oxford) for his essay on 'Factors influencing the compliance of patients to prescribed drugs in chronic diseases, with particular reference to leprosy' and third prize to Aryn Kadri (Balliol College, Oxford) for his entry on the immunological subject above. The subjects for 1984 are '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, specialised programmes' OR 'Leprosy will be most expediently controlled by the use of fully-integrated programmes which make use of the primary health care approach.'

India. A LEPRA prize essay competition was first offered to St John's Medical College, Bangalore, South India, in 1981 on the subject of 'Leprosy control in South India'. In 1982 the subject was 'Factors influencing compliance to drug treatment in leprosy in South India' and in 1983 'Leprosy and the eye'. For the latter subject, the first prize was awarded to Mr Rajeev Thomas Thachil: two equal second prizes were awarded to Miss Mabel Cordeiro and Mr V J Joseph. The subject for the current year, 1984, is 'Leprosy and primary health care'.

XVth General Assembly of ILEP, Venice, June 1984

This Assembly took place in the Giorgio Cini Foundation in Venice. The Plenary Meeting included the following items: biennial reports of Ad Hoc Working Group No. 2 on health education and information, AHWG No. 3 on social aspects, AHWG No. 5 on training, AHWG No. 6 on primary health care, AHWG No. 7 on leprosy and tuberculosis and AHWG No. 8 on leprosy in Europe. Dr Cap, Chairman of the Medical Commission, gave a biennial report of its activities. The Medical Commission met on 12 June and considered: the role of the Medical Commission and the position of its Secretary; monitoring by computer of MDT programmes; priorities in research; the ILEP meeting in Delhi on MDT; the WHO meeting on MDT in Delhi; up-dating the ILEP booklet on the 'Introduction of Multidrug Therapy for Leprosy'; a report by Dr S G Browne on the *International Leprosy Congress* in New Delhi, 1984. The next meeting is to be in Paris, December 1984.

National Workshop on Laboratory Techniques for Leprosy Control, Shanghai

Under an agreement between WHO Headquarters, Western Pacific Regional Office of WHO (WRPO) and the Ministry of Public Health of the People's Republic of China, a workshop, funded by WRPO, was held 5–23 March 1984 at the Zeng Yi Hospital, Shanghai. Twenty-six participants, representing 19 institutes in 14 provinces (or autonomous regions) were trained in the mouse foot-pad technique for cultivation of *M. leprae* or the Ridley–Jopling technique for classification of leprosy. In addition, an intensive course of lectures on the two techniques and on the principles of multidrug therapy was presented. Workshop facilitators included five foreign experts (Dr S K Noordeen, Prof. L Levy, Dr D S Ridley, Prof. S R Pattyn and Mrs L P Murray) and seven Chinese scientists.

Medical Laboratory Manual for Tropical Countries; Monica Cheesbrough, 1984

Volume 2 on Microbiology has now been published and is available from Monica Cheesbrough at Tropical Health Technology Ltd, 14 Bevills Close, Doddington, Cambridgeshire PE15 OTT, England. It has been produced with the object of assisting those working in regional and district hospital laboratories and medical and nursing students in developing countries. Special features include:

Emphasis on the laboratory diagnosis of major communicable diseases; more than 50 colour plates illustrating pathogens that cause *Campylobacter* enteritis, *Salmonella* and *Shigella* infections, cholera, amoebic dysentery, meningitis, tuberculosis, leprosy, gonorrhoea, pneumonia, staphylococcal and Group A streptococcal infections, donovanosis, diphtheria, clostridial infections, anthrax, trachoma, and relapsing fever; free kit with each manual to make condenser stops, to examine specimens by dark-field microscopy; special subsidized low price to developing countries.

The total cost of this new volume, including packaging and posting in the UK is only £9.95 (unbelievable value for the 488 pages and illustrations); and the cost to developing countries is even lower: £6.40 by surface mail and £12.10 by airmail postage.