

News and Notes

More pages for *Leprosy Review*

This journal now has a circulation of over 1300, 4 times yearly, to more than 100 different countries, including all the main leprosy-endemic parts of the world. In recent years, the number of original articles submitted for publication has also increased and we have often found it difficult to find space for editorials, special articles, reports, news, notes, abstracts, book reviews and teaching material. We are therefore delighted to report that at a recent meeting in London the director of LEPROA authorized the use of 96 pages per issue during 1986 in order to accommodate the amount of material which is now regularly in hand. We take this opportunity to thank our contributors; the expert assessors; those who have written letters to the Editor; the editorial staff and the printers in Oxford. *Editor.*

Thesis on the Marchoux Institute from Dr Guy-Michel Nebout, France

We were delighted to receive a copy of this thesis (in French), written by Dr Guy-Michel Nebout as his thesis for the Doctorate in Medicine (Diplome d'Etat) in the Academie de Paris, Faculté de Médecine Lariboisière-Saint-Louis, Paris. After an introductory section, Dr Nebout describes the chaulmoogra era; the introduction of modern chemotherapy; research work in the Institute; surgery; current activities and future plans. The annexes contain a biography of Professor Marchoux. There are a number of excellent line drawings and illustrations. This account will surely be of the greatest interest to workers in French-speaking countries of Africa and particularly to those who are familiar with the sustained contribution of the Marchoux Institute to '... la lutte contre la lèpre en Afrique Noire'.

Newsletter; International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness (IAPB)

We continue to receive copies of the IAPB news and to read with interest of the worldwide efforts which are being made to combat blindness. The current issue (July 1985) contains reports of—Vitamin A for Ethiopia; recommendations on collaboration with non-government organizations; an eye survey in Saudi Arabia; a 12-minute videotape on the activities of IAPB, available from Dr Carl Kupfer, President, National Institutes of Health, National Eye Institute, Building 31, Room 6A03, Bethesda, Maryland, 20205, USA. There is on the back page of the Newsletter a valuable list of organizations and agencies dealing with eye disease in various parts of the world.

HEARU; Handicapped Education and Aid Research Unit, London

We are indebted to the director, Kennett Westmacott, for the following information:

HEARU provides for the needs of disabled adults, whether their disability has been recent or not, suffering from a wide range of diseases.

We are simply a workshop which teaches the families, friends, and in some cases the disabled persons themselves, how to make an inexpensive range of living aids using simple domestic hand-tools, basic materials and uncomplicated methods.

In trying to help the disabled person become as independent as possible, we have developed simple designs and aids that will add to their comfort and will enable them to cope with some of the tasks they have had to depend on others for.

Each aid is also designed according to the needs of the individual. Together with the family and the therapist we find out what is needed and make a simple aid to meet that need.

The process of designing and making aids can be seen as a difficult task but at HEARU we emphasize its simplicity. Our day and evening workshops with their simple tools are aimed at those individuals with absolutely no practical skills. Those with the initial lack of confidence are provided with sympathy and patience. The aids are designed to cost no more than £10 in materials, although most of them are made for less than £2.

Most of our basic designs are flexible enough to be adapted to the needs of different people. They range from aids for washing, grooming and dressing to furniture modifications and leisure-time aids. One of the many pieces made has been the hand grip which, although very simple, has allowed over 200 people with their crippled hands to use spoons, forks, pencils, combs, toothbrushes and plugs.

HEARU is thought to be unique in Britain—if not the world. It works closely with ILEA (Inner London Education Authority) and several big London hospitals. Its work is recognized internationally and it has links with the British Council and UNESCO.

For further information about the HEARU workshop contact Kennett and Jean Westmacott, Handicapped Education and Aid Research Unit, City of London Polytechnic, Walburgh House, 56 Bigland Street, London E1 2NG. (We have also received from this centre details about different courses which are open to 'any keen applicant'. Kennett Westmacott is in correspondence with this office on the design of a simple loom for disabled people in African villages, which we hope to publish in a later issue in 1986. *Editor.*)

Graves Medical Audiovisual Library; Newsletter Autumn 1985

The total list of materials available from this expanding centre has to be seen to be believed and the 'New Titles' list for autumn 1985 underlines the continued collection of subject matter, covering almost every conceivable aspect of medical practice. From the letter itself, 2 items are of particular interest:

1 Concord Films Council. We recently visited Concord, another sister organization, to renew old acquaintances and to exchange views. Like us they have grown from modest beginnings in the late 50s; now they are the largest 16 mm educational film library in the UK. They supply video as well as film for all areas of education and for all sorts of special interest groups.

Concord was started by Quakers Eric Walker and Lydia Vulliamy, in 1959, in response to a need for films on peace issues. They now distribute films from over 350 other bodies covering a very wide range of topics. More than 3000 titles are listed in their catalogue including a large selection on medical subjects, particularly mental and physical handicap, child development and health education. The address: 201 Felixstowe Road, Ipswich, Suffolk, IP3 9BJ England. Telephone: (0473) 76102.

2 National Medical Slide Bank. We first started to think about this in 1977 and now we are pleased to announce the launch of a major project to set up a large medical slide library.

There are lots of good slides of medical subjects held in many of the main teaching hospitals, but there are many teachers, especially in the paramedical professions, who require slides but don't have ready access to good pictures. The slide bank will meet these needs and many others.

We are working in co-operation with Chadwyck-Healey Ltd, a company who have many years experience of publishing special collections, usually in microfiche. They will be producing a videodisc version of the bank once it's established.

Mr David Tredinnick is retiring early from his post of director of Medical Illustration at St Bartholomew's Hospital to join us for 2 years to work on the project as project director.

Gandhi Memorial Leprosy Foundation Centre for Social Science Research and Development in Leprosy

We are indebted to the Director, Mr S P Tare, for the following information about a new centre.:

The Centre for Social Science Research and Development in Leprosy, established by the Gandhi Memorial Leprosy Foundation at its Wardha Campus, started functioning with effect from 2 September 1985.

The Centre proposes to initiate research in social science areas with a view to promote efficient functioning of a leprosy control programme. Some of the priority research areas are: 1 Health services research in MDT; 2 Perception studies of patients, community and health workers about the leprosy problem; 3 Nature and extent of social stigma; 4 Evaluation of health education programmes; 5 Integration of leprosy control work in primary health care.

The centre would welcome suggestions and comments for research on social science issues in leprosy from individual scholars and institutions. Those interested in pursuing research in their own institution or on behalf of the Centre are welcome to contact the Research Advisor.

The Centre will also organize workshops on social science research methodology for leprosy workers at Wardha and in other institutions. It would be the responsibility of the Centre to offer guidance to researchers in other institutions to design the research projects.

Professor R K Mutatkar, Medical Anthropologist from Poona University, has joined the Centre as Research Advisor.

The GMLF has formed a Social Science Advisory Panel of 8 experts which includes 1 leprologist, 1 leprosy worker, 1 educationist, 1 communication expert, 2 anthropologists, and 2 sociologists. The Panel will give all guidance to the Centre.

For further information: contact Shri S P Tare, Director, Gandhi Memorial Leprosy Foundation, Wardha-442, 103 India.

Poland honours Dr Wanda Blenska

The Medical Academy of the University of Poznan, Poland, recently conferred on Dr Wanda Blenska of the Buluba Leprosy Centre in Uganda the newly endowed 'Karl-Marcinkowski-Medal'. Dr Blenska has worked since 1950 in this centre in Uganda, which was founded by sisters of the Irish Order of St Francis in 1934. Apart from clinical and control work, Buluba has become famous in Uganda as a centre for teaching and training,

much of it supported by the German Leprosy Relief Association. We congratulate Dr Blenska on this richly-deserved honour from her mother-country and pay tribute to the long and highly significant contribution which she has made towards the control of leprosy in Uganda.

Distinguished Service Cross with Star for Dr Ruth Pfau

The Federal President Richard von Weizsäcker has awarded the Distinguished Service Cross with Star on behalf of the Federal Republic of Germany to Dr Ruth Pfau, sister of the Congregation 'Töchter vom Herzen Mariä', working in Pakistan. Dr Pfau has been working in leprosy since 1960, beginning with the care of about 700 patients in a shanty-town area of Karachi. She is now consultant adviser to the Ministry of Health and has established a comprehensive leprosy control programme covering the whole country, with about 17,000 patients currently under treatment. We warmly congratulate Dr Pfau on this honour and wish her every possible success in the continuing fight against leprosy in Pakistan.

Technical Guide for Smear Examination in Leprosy, translated into Spanish

The original version of this Guide for smear examination in leprosy has now been translated and published in Spanish and is available from Ayuda Alemana a los Enfermos de Lepra (AYU), Partado Aereo 91049, Zona 8, Bogota, Colombia. Enquiries may also be made to the German Leprosy Relief Association, D-8700 Würzburg 11 Dominikanerplatz 4, West Germany. The English version is being reprinted and a French translation is in hand. Plans are also under discussion for a possible printing in India.

An ethical code for animal experimentation

This article from the WHO Chronicle, **39** (2); 51–56 (1985) carries the following summary:

Early in 1985 the Council for International Organizations of Medical Sciences (CIOMS) published *International Guiding Principles for Biomedical Research Involving Animals*. This was the culmination of a three-year programme initiated in 1982 with the encouragement of the WHO Advisory Committee on Medical Research and the active collaboration of expert staff members of WHO.

Particularly in view of the increasing—and at times violent—activities of various animal welfare groups, this article should be read in full by those who are responsible for laboratories in which animal experimentation takes place. The 'International Guiding Principles for Biomedical Research Involving Animals; Basic Principles', on page 54 of this article are of such importance that we reproduce them here in full:

- I. The advancement of biological knowledge and the development of improved means for the protection of the health and well-being both of man and of animals require recourse to experimentation on intact live animals of a wide variety of species.
- II. Methods such as mathematical models, computer simulation and *in vitro* biological systems should be used wherever appropriate.
- III. Animal experiments should be undertaken only after due consideration of their relevance for human or animal health and the advancement of biological knowledge.
- IV. The animals selected for an experiment should be of an appropriate species and quality, and the minimum number required, to obtain scientifically valid results.
- V. Investigators and other personnel should never fail to treat animals as sentient, and should regard their proper care and use and the avoidance or minimization of discomfort, distress, or pain as ethical imperatives.
- VI. Investigators should assume that procedures that would cause pain in human beings cause pain in other vertebrate species although more needs to be known about the perception of pain in animals.
- VII. Procedures with animals that may cause more than momentary or minimal pain or distress should be performed with appropriate sedation, analgesia, or anaesthesia in accordance with accepted veterinary practice. Surgical or other painful procedures should not be performed on unanaesthetized animals paralysed by chemical agents.
- VIII. Where waivers are required in relation to the provisions of article VII, the decisions should not rest solely with the investigators directly concerned but should be made, with due regard to the provisions of articles IV, V, and VI, by a suitably constituted review body. Such waivers should not be made solely for the purposes of teaching or demonstration.
- IX. At the end of, or when appropriate during, an experiment, animals that would otherwise suffer severe or chronic pain, distress, discomfort, or disablement that cannot be relieved should be painlessly killed.
- X. The best possible living conditions should be maintained for animals kept for biomedical purposes. Normally the care of animals should be under the supervision of veterinarians having experience in laboratory animal science. In any case, veterinary care should be available as required.
- XI. It is the responsibility of the director of an institute or department using animals to ensure that investigators and personnel have appropriate qualifications or experience for conducting procedures on animals. Adequate opportunities shall be provided for in-service training, including the proper and humane concern for animals under their care.

PATH: Program for Appropriate Technology for Health

The relatively new organization known as PATH—Program for Appropriate Technology in Health—is a non-profit, non-governmental group devoted exclusively to the development and application of appropriate health technologies for primary health care in developing countries. Its journal, *Directions*, is published 3 times a year. Single copies are distributed at no cost to health program managers in developing countries and others interested in primary health care programs. For more information or copies of the newsletter write to editor Viven Davis Tsu, PATH, Canal Place, 130 Nickerson Street, Seattle, Washington 98109, USA.

Volume 5, No 1 for the first quarter of 1985, is devoted to 'primary eye care' and should probably be in the possession of all those who are involved with the diagnosis and treatment of eye problems in patients with leprosy. It is well-illustrated, clearly written and brief. The back page lists teaching-learning material relevant to this theme.

Notice on leprosy; Tata Steel and UNICEF in India

The Leprosy Awareness Campaign, c/o UNICEF, Information Service, Lodi Estate, New Delhi 110 003, in association with Tata Steel, has issued a notice of half-page size for publication in the Indian newspapers entitled 'I once had leprosy' and showing a 14-year-old boy whose leprosy was detected early and successfully treated, leaving no deformities. The accompanying text has headings: Early detection; Early intervention; Sustained treatment; There is nothing to fear. The footnote records that this approach has been taken '... in the interest of better understanding and support for the leprosy patient.' This bold and forthright approach by 2 important agencies in India is greatly to be admired and it is to be hoped that their message will have its intended impact in a country where social attitudes are of such critical importance to leprosy.

Revista de Leprologia; Fontilles, Alicante, Spain

We appreciate receiving regular copies of this journal from Fontilles Leprosarium in Spain. The latest issue carries an excellent editorial by the director, Dr Terencio de las Aguas on physical rehabilitation of the patient with leprosy, followed by an extensive study of deep sensitivity in patients with leprosy by Dr Rosa Mateos Garcia of the Medical Faculty of Valencia. There are 112 references and this article makes an important contribution to an aspect of clinical leprosy which is often far from well described in textbooks. We take this opportunity of drawing attention to the exhaustive list of reviews of published articles on leprosy which regularly appear in this journal from Fontilles; this issue has no fewer than 34 pages of reviews, covering (in Spanish) all the usual subject headings from the medical press.

Leprosy eradication in Paraguay in the near future

The following information has been taken from Press information Number 29, issued by the German Leprosy Relief Association in October 1985:

'Within the next few months all the leprosy patients of Asuncion, the capital of Paraguay, will be cured. By 1990 leprosy will be eradicated in the whole country as in Malta, where the programme was successful by the end of 1984.' This announcement was made by Professor Dr Enno Freerksen, Director of the project, on the occasion of a seminar held in the Research Institute Borstel, near Hamburg, in co-operation with the German Leprosy Relief Association.

This success has been made possible by a combination of drugs developed at the Borstel Research Institute for Experimental Biology and Medicine supported by GLRA. It was Professor Freerksen who launched this project. In Paraguay there are 4000 tuberculosis patients being treated at the same time; the components of the multidrug therapy developed by Professor Freerksen and his collaborators are Rifampicin and Isoprodian (the latter = DDS, prothionamide and isoniazid).

IV European Leprosy Symposium on Leprosy Research, Genoa, Italy 1-5 October 1986

The main topics of this Symposium organized by Associazione Italiana 'Amici di Raoul Follereau' are: Biochemistry of *M leprae*; *In vitro* cultivation of *M leprae*; Immunology; Drug development for leprosy; and Multiple drug therapy of leprosy.

The objective of the Symposium is to exchange, in the interim between two ILA Congresses, recent information and views and to promote further research.

The symposium is to open to those who are already engaged in leprosy research as well as others engaged in other research projects relevant to leprosy research.

Each topic will be introduced by a position paper to be presented by an invited speaker. This will be followed by presentations of original research by other participants and discussion.

There is no registration fee but for further details of the Symposium and accommodation please write to: Organizing Secretariat, Associazione Italiana 'Amici de Raoul Follereau', Via Borselli 4, 40135 Bologna, Italy.