

Leprosy Control and Field Work

Tuberculosis and Leprosy Control Programme, Yei River District, Sudan

Dr V Erasmus, Coordinating Adviser, Primary Health Care Programme Yei, AMREF/GTZ (Juba-Sudan), c/o AMREF Headquarters, Wilson Airport, PO Box 30125, Nairobi, Kenya, Africa, has kindly supplied details of the TB and Leprosy Control Programme for South Sudan. In January 1986, he reports '... a District Health Planning Committee was set up in Yei River District. One of the priority areas identified was disability arising from poliomyelitis, leprosy, trauma etc. TB and leprosy themselves are serious problems, and therefore initially two programmes were developed: (i) Leprosy and disability control and rehabilitation; and (ii) tuberculosis control.

As planning proceeded, it became clear that for disease control, TB and leprosy were better dealt with together. Consequently a TB and leprosy control programme was developed and is in fact being implemented now. The Disability Control and Rehabilitation Programme remains as it is, except that the case-finding system is attached to the TB and Leprosy Control programme.

This does not imply that these are separate vertical activities, but are in fact coordinated by the District Health Planning Committee; this is an interagency (both Government and non-government) body including AMREF, MSF, ERAD, NAD, SRPY, SSCP and other health-related agencies. Clear out referral pathways have been identified.

The programmes are meanwhile proceeding well and local cooperation from the Chiefs, Headmen and general population has been surprisingly good. The first survey is being undertaken now. We greatly welcome the proposal by Professor David Morley of the Institute of Child Health in London that it may be possible to send students out here from the UK to participate in our field work.

Technical Guide for Smear Examination and BI Chart; now in Thai

We congratulate Mr Wolfgang Kampf, German Leprosy Relief Association, 257/3 Kaeonawarat Road, Main PO Box 215, Chiang Mai, Thailand, for effecting translation of both the Smear Guide and the BI Chart (see descriptions in *Lepr Rev* 57, 81-2) into Thai. These have already been distributed to various parts of the country, where they are greatly appreciated.

International Disability Education and Awareness, UK

Christine Wilson, Disability Awareness Trainer, International Disability Education and Awareness (formerly Third World Group for Disabled People), 16 Bath Street, Frome, Somerset BA11 1DN, England, keeps us informed of 5-day courses on disability and rehabilitation in the developing world which are organized in the UK, from time to time, by this agency. She writes:

'These courses are aimed at developing the confidence and skills of people working, or about to work overseas, with people with disabilities. Practical, theoretical and interactional sessions combine to encourage participants to share their experiences, skills and ideas and to look at some of the fundamental issues behind Disability and Development.

Emphasis is on working with other people as our main resources and allies, and ways in which we can improve our communication and teaching skills in order to put this into effect.

Participants and tutors are encouraged to use English as a secondary language, throughout the course. Having contributors from many different countries enables us to explore cultural barriers to communication and to appreciate the diversity of our experiences'. For further information write to the address above.

Calendar (blister) packs for the implementation of MDT in leprosy

Following the initiative of the Sasakawa Memorial Health Foundation and Ciba-Geigy in introducing blister (calendar) packs for the multiple drug treatment of both pauci- and multi-bacillary patients, using WHO regimens, in the Philippines, a similar approach is planned for 3 areas of India in 1987. DANIDA has decided to dispense all anti-leprosy drugs in its planned programmes for India in this form. It is understood that about 1.7 million packs are currently under production and that they will be put into field use in early 1987. In Thailand, a controlled trial of packs has been planned in two 'vertical' and two 'horizontal' programmes, also due to start in early 1987.