

## Obituary

### CARINE WETERMAN

Medical Mission Sister

1929–1987

Carine entered the Society of Catholic Medical Mission Sisters in 1950, in Holland. From 1954 to 1957 she trained as a laboratory technician in Utrecht and in 1960 came to Malaŵi to set up the laboratory of the newly established Holy Family Mission Hospital in Phalombe (Southern Malaŵi). In 1970 she worked for one year in Ethiopia to help set up the laboratory in a Hospital of the Medical Mission Sisters.

It was Dr Molesworth, the Medical Director, who appreciated the importance of a first class laboratory service for the Leprosy Control Project which he initiated in 1966 in Malaŵi, and it was John Eldon, the Manager, who spotted the talents of Carine when he visited the Sisters of Holy Family Hospital in Phalombe and he soon invited her to come and work for LEpra. Over the years, first in Blantyre and later in Lilongwe, Sister Carine was instrumental in improving the quality of all aspects of leprosy-laboratory work throughout Malaŵi. She developed, and maintained for many years, a system of regular quality control and the reading of leprosy smears. Through her we, and later others, realized that a consistently high standard of laboratory work in leprosy is feasible, given the basic equipment and staff pertaining in Malaŵi. Her practical sound sense and her gift as a teacher found recognition in the fact that she was invited to conduct courses outside Malaŵi, to give her comments on drafts of publications. Neighbouring countries sent their laboratory technicians to her for specific training in leprosy-laboratory work and its supervision. It is to her personal credit that LEpra's laboratory work in Malaŵi has become outstanding in the eyes of our peers, and that it enabled LEpra to introduce WHO/MDT, without delay or much difficulty, in Malaŵi in 1983.

Living alone in Blantyre, and later in Lilongwe, Carine kept close contact with her fellow nuns, spending her weekends with the Sisters in Kasina. Through the Mother House of the Society of Medical Mission Sisters Carine regularly obtained financial support for LEpra's work in Malaŵi; in particular she acquired a double-head for a microscope which facilitated enormously the teaching of reading slit-skin smears.

During the last two years before her retirement at the end of 1984 she trained a successor and felt that he was sufficiently prepared to take over from her. Thus she had rounded off her work with us in a logical manner, and could be satisfied with what she had accomplished in her 13 years with LEpra. Nevertheless we were sorry to see her leave us and to miss her stable and charitable influence. Early in 1985 she left Malaŵi for Holland.

Carine died on 27 August 1987 in Holland, where she stayed with the Medical Mission Sisters in Mook.

G BOERRIGTER