

News and Notes

Reconstructive Surgery Fund, Lepra, UK

Lepra's (The British Leprosy Relief Association) Reconstructive Surgery Fund (formerly the 'Ring Fund') gives priority to early leprosy case-finding and treatment before the nerves become involved or damage ensues. Nevertheless, Lepra wishes to encourage reconstructive surgery for leprosy patients who have suffered nerve damage. This surgery should: remobilize clawed hands; reactivate eyelid closure; rebuild collapsed nose bridges; and restore dorsiflexion to dropped feet or correct clawed toes. Lepra has therefore established a fund for reconstructive surgery. Grants will be given on a per capita basis towards the cost of surgery, pre- and post-operative physiotherapy, equipment and temporary hospitalization for the patient. The grants apply to India and will usually be paid in rupees at rates which are decided by Lepra, allowing for inflation. Applications for grants should be submitted to: Lepra-India-Society, PB No. 1518, Plot No. 37, Asbestos Colony, Vikramপুরi, Secunderabad 500 003, India.

WHO Model Prescribing Information; *Drugs used in Mycobacterial Diseases*

This 40-page publication provides model prescribing information for some 13 essential drugs used for the prevention and treatment of tuberculosis, and for the treatment of leprosy, and for the treatment of diseases caused by nontuberculous mycobacteria, including localized cutaneous lesions, pulmonary disease, lymphadenitis, and disseminated disease.

The first chapter, devoted to tuberculosis, opens with a detailed overview of the disease, its clinical features, and the main principles of prevention, tuberculin testing, and chemotherapy. The special problems of diagnosis and treatment in HIV-infected patients are briefly discussed. Readers are also given detailed information on the properties of antituberculosis drugs, preferred treatment regimens, monitoring of patient compliance and therapeutic response, and the treatment of relapsing and unresponsive disease. Against this background, model prescribing information is presented for 10 drugs used in vaccination, chemoprophylaxis, and chemotherapy. Each drug is profiled in terms of its clinical uses, dosage and mode of administration, contra-indications and precautions, use in pregnancy, adverse effects, and possible interactions with other drugs. Drugs used in the treatment of leprosy are covered in the second chapter, which also features background information on the disease and the main principles of multi-drug therapy. The final chapter provides prescribing information for drugs used to treat nonspecific mycobacterial infections.

Apply to: Office of Publications, WHO, 1211 Geneva 27, Switzerland. Price: Sw. fr. 9; US \$8.10. In developing countries; Sw. fr. 6.30. Order no. 1150363.

Actionaid Disability News, Bangalore, India

Actionaid Disability News is a bi-annual newsletter of the Disability Division, ActionAid, India. The newsletter is meant for private circulation only, for planners, administrators, professionals, funding organizations and implementing agencies involved in disability and rehabilitation programmes.

The major emphasis of the newsletter is on articles related to policy development, concept

clarification, development of methodology in areas of service delivery, training of manpower and programme evaluation, and development of technology related to rehabilitation.

Other information related to rehabilitation of disabled people that may be of use to funding organizations and implementing agencies are also welcome.

The views expressed in the newsletter are those of contributors and not necessarily of ActionAid.

Copies of the newsletter are mailed free of cost on request.

We are interested in exchanging copies of this newsletter on a reciprocal basis, with other rehabilitation publications and in gathering information on programmes and research findings related to disability and rehabilitation.

Articles sent to use will be published subject to their suitability and may also be published elsewhere if so desired. Two copies each (typewritten, double spaced, on bond paper) of articles, letters, comments and other communications meant for publication may be sent to the address given below:

Disability Division, Actionaid, P.B. 5406, 3, Resthouse Road, Bangalore-560 001, India.

A fresh look at Hansen's Disease, M J de Mallac

The above book (162 pp) written by Dr M J de Mallac, previously of Westfort Leprosy Institute, Pretoria, South Africa and with extensive experience from Nigeria, Gambia, Burma, India and Zaire, is described by the publisher as:

Although a good deal remains unclear or imperfectly understood, incomplete, or inconclusive about Hansen's disease (leprosy), major considerations in M J de Mallac's *A Fresh Look at Hansen's Disease* give cognitive evidence that the dignity and integrity of the patient are central to an issue awaiting redress; that it is no longer possible to envisage the disease as other than a fundamental immunological reality; that, neural in its inception, the disease assumes its true status from cause to effect, not the other way round as has been hitherto the case in both clinical and didactic practice.

Taking in the facts about Hansen's disease to see them whole calls for a sharper focus, since they equally spell a multi-leveled challenge at its scientific and humanitarian best.

It is available from Vantage Press Inc. 516 West 34th Street, New York, NY 10001, USA. Price US \$25.00 plus postage.

Action in International Medicine; First World Assembly, 1992

Action in International Medicine (AIM), an organization of 76 colleges and academies of medicine and other health professions based in 27 countries, held its first world assembly in Toronto, 25-28 August 1991, at the Koffler Institute hosted by the University of Toronto. Although only founded as a charitable organization in November 1988, under the able leadership of its chairman, Sir Gordon Wolstenholme, former Director of the Ciba Foundation, AIM has attracted the membership of many professional organizations interested in world health, especially those involved in training and education. The objective of the AIM Assembly was to agree upon plans to promote the infrastructure development for the delivery of health care around the world. AIM's focus, as differing from other organizations working in the field, is upon the frontline professional health worker at the district level in developing countries.

The 87 Assembly participants came from 23 countries (Argentina, Bangladesh, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Ecuador, Ghana, India, Jamaica, Kenya, Malaysia, Nepal, Nigeria, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Switzerland, Thailand, United Kingdom, United States of America, Western Samoa, Yugoslavia, Zaire and Zambia). Representatives of the World Health Organization and UNICEF also attended.

The conference was addressed by a number of speakers reporting on the status of worldwide health care delivery and the prospects for its future. Margaret Catley-Carlson, Deputy Minister of Health and Welfare of Canada, pointed out that many developing countries are facing economic

recession and a debt crisis, both of which eat into government spending. Major demographic shifts, such as growing urbanization, international migration and an ageing population, are contributing to the affordability and sustainability of health systems worldwide. She stated that there had been some gains in the 13 years since the Alma-Ata Declaration on Primary Health Care. During that period, infant mortality rates had fallen from 83 per thousand live births to between 65 and 70. By 1988, access to local health services and immunization coverage had increased globally to about 70%, and in the last 3 decades under the age of 5 mortality rates had been halved. Against this, major gaps remained between rich and poor, with more than a billion people living in absolute poverty and a fall-off in per capita GDP of 10% in Latin America between 1980 and 1990, and twice that amount in Africa. Women's literacy was still only two-thirds of men, and childhood diseases still killed 14 million children a year. Dr Catley-Carlson emphasized the importance of the participation of communities in designing and evaluating health services tailored to local needs. The arch-enemy to progress was poverty, which she interpreted as the lack of choice—choice of food, fuel, education and the opportunities for individual and collective development. Poor people's efforts to survive in turn ravage the environment.

Professor Olikoye Ransome-Kuti, Minister of Health for Nigeria, emphasized the need to complement activities from primary health care with improvements in staff, resources and training of those working in district hospitals. He advocated a bottom-up approach to counteract the tendency towards centralization of management, called for standardization of equipment for general hospitals, and regretted that because the performance of hospitals in many countries had been discredited, there were now very few sources of financial and other forms of assistance for their development.

Further information: Action in International Medicine, Windeyer Building, 46 Cleveland Street, London W1P 6DP.

Handbook of Leprosy, 4th edition, Indian distributor

The *Handbook of Leprosy*, eds W H Jopling and A C McDougall, is now available in India from CBS Publishers and Distributors, 485 Jain Bhawan, Bhola Nath Nagar, Shahdra, Delhi 11032. Price: 150 rupees, postage free in India.

The Heiser Program for research in leprosy and tuberculosis

This well known Program, previously for leprosy only, now includes grants for tuberculosis under the headings of Postdoctoral Research Fellowships and Research Grants. Further details from: Mrs Barbara Hugonnet, Director, Heiser Program for Research in Leprosy and Tuberculosis, 450 East 63rd Street, New York, NY 10021, USA.

Clinical tuberculosis, John Crofton, Norman Horne and Fred Miller, TALC/WHO

Clinical tuberculosis is sponsored by the International Union against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease and by TALC. A low cost edition for developing countries has been financially supported by the World Health Organization and other bodies. It is written primarily as a practical guide for busy non-specialist doctors working in areas with few resources. The language is simple and there is an extensive glossary. The book can therefore be useful to health (medical) assistants and senior nurses with a limited knowledge of English. It can also serve as a helpful reference for younger doctors in developed countries who now have less experience of tuberculosis.

The book covers diagnosis and treatment of all types of tuberculosis, pulmonary and non-pulmonary, both in adults and children. It deals fully with the effects of HIV infection on the disease and describes the essential elements of a National Tuberculosis Control Programme. There are many line drawings and flow charts as aids to training, learning and clinical practice. 'Stories' about individual patients highlight practical points.

The 3 authors have had many years' experience of dealing with tuberculosis and of teaching both undergraduates and postgraduates. They have advised in many countries in Asia, Africa and South America. The final text incorporates constructive comments on an earlier draft by experienced consultants from the IUATLD, WHO and consultants working in several countries in Asia, Africa and the Pacific. The book therefore represents much collective wisdom.

Price: £3.00, plus postage and is being distributed by TALC, PO Box 49, St Albans, Herts AL1 4AX, U.K.