

NEWS and NOTES

This department furnishes information concerning institutions, organizations, and individuals engaged in work on leprosy and other mycobacterial diseases, and makes note of scientific meetings and other matters of interest.

Africa. *The West African Secretariat of ILEP produces booklet to assist leprosy patients.* The booklet entitled *Basic Knowledge About Leprosy* is a guide for nonmedical personnel aimed at patients and members of the general public who are able to read basic English. It is well illustrated with photographs and diagrams and presents the facts of leprosy clearly. The booklet may be obtained by writing to: The West African Leprosy Secretariat, P.O. Box 673, Freetown, Sierra Leone (West Africa).—(Adapted from *Lepr. Rev.* 48 [1977] 291)

The Leprosy Mission Field Survey of Tanzania. The United Republic of Tanzania (363,708 square miles) was formed in 1964 by the union of Tanganyika and Zanzibar. The capital is Dodoma. The estimated population in 1975 was over 15 million people of which over 98% are of the African race, with Asian, Arab and European minorities. The official language is Swahili in addition to local African vernaculars. There is freedom of religion made up of traditional beliefs, Christianity and Islam. The government functions under a socialist framework for rural development with the rural population gathered into "Ujamaa" villages or cooperatives. The economy is predominantly agricultural with major exports of cotton, sisal, coffee, tea, cloves and diamonds.

The leprosy situation is represented by an average prevalence rate of about ten per thousand giving a total of over 150,000 patients of whom it is estimated only 50% are under treatment, many of them irregularly. In 1967 a National Leprosy Advisory and Coordinating Committee was established as a subcommittee of the Tanzania Christian Medical Association to be a link between the voluntary agencies and the Ministry of Health and to advise on leprosy policy and treatment. In 1977 the Ministry of Health initiated a combined National Tuberculosis and Leprosy Control Plan under which District TB/Leprosy Coordinators will be appointed to coordinate the treatment and con-

trol of the two diseases at district level, working through the staff at existing health points and encouraging proper standards of training, treatment, records, laboratory investigations, case finding and case holding. District hospitals will be used wherever possible for inpatient treatment while some leprosy hospitals will be retained for specialized treatment, surgery, etc.

The present Leprosy Mission involvement covers the regions of Hombolo/Dodoma, Sikonge/Tabora, Kola Ndoto/Shinyanga, Lulindi/Sasasi, and Chazi, all of which receive financial assistance from TLM for the running of treatment centers.—(Excerpted from *New Day*, Winter [1977] 8)

England. *Leprosy in medieval England.* The Gazette of the Institute of Medical Laboratory Science (vol. 21, no. 6, June 1977) includes an interesting article on "Leprosy in Medieval England" by J. H. Bayliss. The author quotes contemporary sources which suggest that leprosy attained importance in the British Isles before the time of the Crusades. A map of England locates the numerous "leper homes," 190 of which have been recorded. Their distribution closely follows the population density pattern of the period. A histogram illustrates that the foundation of such homes reached a peak during the latter half of the 12th century, fading to insignificance by the 15th, and follows quite strikingly the incidence pattern that would be expected in a leprosy epidemic.

Where prevalence is concerned the cases of Exeter and Oxford are quoted. In 1163 a house was built at Exeter to accommodate 13 leprosy-infected people, at a time when the population of the city was estimated at 1,438. A similar house at Oxford held 12 leprosy sufferers, estimated population of city 1,411, suggesting at least the possibility in these areas of a leprosy prevalence of around 1%. The city of London made regulations regarding begging by leprosy sufferers in 1346, 1348, 1367, 1372 and 1375; the very fre-

quency of these suggests both the significance of the leprosy problem and some degree of humanity in relation to it, a less rigorous repression than applied on the continent of Europe. A discussion on the decline of leprosy leads to the conclusion that after 200 years the development of resistance in much of the population was important. A useful bibliography is also included.—(Adapted from *Lepr. Rev.* **48** [1977] 291-292)

Germany. *The International Federation of Anti-Leprosy Foundations* is the new name chosen by the 10th General Assembly of the former European Federation, held in Bonn, Federal Republic of Germany during April 1975. Twenty-two member organizations from throughout the world belong to the Federation, which is based in Amiens, France.—(*Int. Rehab. Rev.* **26** [1976] 17)

India. *Dr. S. G. Browne visits India.* During a recent visit to India (27 January to 11 February), Dr. S. G. Browne delivered an address entitled "India's Future Role in the Fight Against Leprosy" at a meeting in New Delhi organized around the launching of a book *A Window on Leprosy* edited by Dr. B. R. Chatterjee. In the presence of the Prime Minister of India and other notabilities, the Vice-President of India officially launched the volume which is published to mark the Silver Jubilee of the Gandhi Memorial Leprosy Foundation. The occasion coincided with the observance of the 30th anniversary of the assassination of Mahatma Gandhi and of World Leprosy Day. The Hind Kusht Nivaran Sangh, offshoot of BELRA (now LEPRO), also celebrates at this time its 50th anniversary.

In addition to lecturing in various centers in India (notably New Delhi, Calcutta, Madras, Karigiri, Bombay and Wardha), Dr. Browne conducted a seminar in Calcutta for the Sisters and Brothers of Mother Teresa's Missionaries of Charity who are engaged in caring for leprosy sufferers, and recommended that their socially exemplary activities should be medically improved and integrated into the Greater Calcutta Leprosy Control Program and in other towns where they are at work. While in Calcutta, Dr. Browne was presented with the J. N. Chowdhury Medal for his contributions to tropical medicine and was asked to deliver the J. N. Chowdhury Memorial Oration on

"Some Growing Points of Leprosy Research" at the School of Tropical Medicine.—S. G. Browne

Seminar on Leprosy held 28-29 December 1977 under auspices of Hind Kusht Nivaran Sangh, Andhra Pradesh Branch, at Hyderabad. The seminar was inaugurated by Sri B. C. Gangopadhyay, IAS, Secretary to the Government, Medical and Health Department. About 500 delegates consisting of medical and paramedical workers, social workers representing the government and voluntary agencies throughout the state attended the seminar. The seminar consisted of interesting reports relating to the various aspects of the leprosy situation in the state, scientific sessions, and the passing of 13 resolutions which should be of interest to leprosy workers in the country. For a more detailed report on the seminar proceedings and resolutions please write to Dr. S. N. Mathur, Honorary Secretary, Hind Kusht Nivaran Sangh, 3-4-760, Barkatpura, Hyderabad-500027, India.—(Adapted from S. N. Mathur's report)

Indonesia. *The First International Workshop on Leprosy Control in Asia.* The Sasakawa Memorial Health Foundation is endeavoring to make a real impact on leprosy in Asia. Under its auspices, a workshop was held in Bangkok (November 1976) on "The Training of Leprosy Workers"; in Manila (January 1977) another on "The Chemotherapy of Leprosy"; and now (28 November-2 December 1977) "The First International Workshop on Leprosy Control in Asia" was held in Jakarta, Indonesia. This workshop was organized and sponsored by the Department of Health of the Republic of Indonesia in conjunction with the Sasakawa Memorial Health Foundation. The theme of the workshop was "The Role of Voluntary Agencies in National Leprosy Control Programs." Participants included delegates from voluntary agencies involved in leprosy field work and training in Indonesia itself (The Leprosy Mission, Netherlands Lepra Fonds, Emmaus Suisse, German Leprosy Relief Association), representatives from WHO, UNICEF and ILEP, delegates from neighboring countries (Nepal, Thailand, Philippines, South Korea, Japan), as well as resource persons (Drs. S. G. Browne, R. S. Guinto and M. F. Lechat).

Taking the advice given in the Fifth WHO Expert Committee on Leprosy, that "continuing consultation between the health authorities and voluntary agencies should be encouraged," the workshop reviewed the leprosy programs in the countries represented and made suggestions for the better application of the principle of cooperation and complementation that has recently been well demonstrated in Indonesia itself and other countries in Asia.

The success of the workshop will be judged by the extent to which the countries concerned put into practice the recommendations that were unanimously adopted at the close of the workshop proper. A successful field trip concluded the proceedings.—S. G. Browne

Mexico. Information on Eleventh International Leprosy Congress.

General Information

Headquarters. The XI International Leprosy Congress will be held in Mexico City on November 13-18, 1978 at the Congress Building, National Medical Center, 330 Cuauhtemoc Avenue.

Activities. The Congress program comprises the following activities: Scientific Program, Social Program, Program for Accompanying Persons, General Assembly of the Members of the International Leprosy Association.

Inauguration and Closing. The inaugural ceremony will take place in the main auditorium of the Congress Building on Monday, November 13, at 9:00 a.m., and the closing session will be held at the same location on Saturday, November 18, at 11:00 a.m.

Official Languages. Spanish, English and French.

Simultaneous Translation. There will be simultaneous translation into the official languages at the inaugural and closing ceremonies, at the scientific sessions, and at the General Assembly of the International Leprosy Association. There will be no simultaneous translation during poster communications.

Publications. The Congress program and the book of abstracts. These publications will be included with the documents delivered to the participants upon registration at the Congress Building.

Local Transportation. A shuttle bus ser-

vice will be furnished free of charge between the "Del Prado" hotel and the locations where scientific and social activities take place. The hotels proposed by the official travel agency are very close to the "Del Prado" hotel. (See Hotels section)

Public Underground Transportation (Metro). Mexico City's subway trains cover three routes. Stations are located near the main hotels. There is a station close to the Congress Building.

Hotel Reservations. Hotel reservation applications (Form 2) should be sent before October 1, directly to the official travel agency for the Congress: Mundus Tours de México, S.A. de C.V., Paseo de la Reforma 379, 4o. piso, México 5, D.F., MEXICO.

Pre- and Post-Congress Tours. Detailed information about tours especially organized for Congress participants before and after the Congress, will be found in the last pages of the program. For reservations, please complete Form-2 and forward it with your payment directly to the official agency. The deadline for receipt of application forms is October 1.

Personal Mail. Personal mail for participants should be addressed as follows: c/o XI Congreso Internacional de la Lepra, Centro Dermatológico Pascua, Dr. Vértiz 464, México 7, D.F., MEXICO. And may be picked up at the information desk in the Congress Building.

Climate and Clothes. Mexico City's climate in November is cool. Formal clothes are not required in any of the Congress events.

Activities of the International Leprosy Association. The General Assembly of the International Leprosy Association is scheduled to take place before the closing session on Saturday, November 18, at 9:30 a.m. in auditorium 1 of the Congress Building. There will be simultaneous translation into Spanish, English and French.

Pre-Congress Activities. Specialists in various fields of leprosy will meet during the days preceding the Congress (November 9, 10, and 11) to discuss the following topics: Experimental Leprosy, Microbiology, Immunology, Experimental Chemotherapy, Epidemiology and Control (including field therapy), Social Aspects, and Training in Leprosy. Copies of the conclusions reached at these meetings will be distributed among

the participants in the Congress during the morning of November 13. There will be no simultaneous translation during these sessions.

<i>Fees.</i>	Enrollment	
	Before July 31	After July 31
Participants	US\$ 125.00	US\$ 150.00
Accompanying persons	40.00	50.00

Payment of the enrollment fee entitles participants to attend the scientific sessions and present free communications and poster communications. Social events included in the enrollment fee for participants as well as accompanying persons are a welcome reception, a concert and the Mexican fiesta. In addition, there will be a sightseeing tour and visits to museums for accompanying persons. (For details, please see the Social Program section.) Social activities also include the official banquet; tickets can be purchased at US\$ 30.00 per person. They must be bought in advance.

Advance Enrollment. To pre-enroll, complete Form I and mail it along with your payment to the Secretariat before September 30. All payments must be made by bank draft to the order of XI Congreso Internacional de la Lepra. In return the General Secretariat will mail a receipt. This receipt will be exchanged for the documents at the Congress Building as of Saturday, November 11, from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Last Minute Enrollment. Persons who have been unable to enroll before September 30 may do so at the Congress Building as of Saturday, November 11 from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Cancellations. Fees paid will be refunded minus ten percent on cancellations received by the Secretariat before October 30. Fees are not refundable if cancellation notices arrive after that date.

Badge. All persons will receive a badge upon registration at the Congress Building. Participants are requested to wear the badge in order to be admitted to scientific sessions, social events and to use the shuttle bus service.

Social Program

(For participants & accompanying persons)

Monday 13 8 p.m.	Welcome reception
Tuesday 14 8 p.m.	Concert
Wednesday 15 8 p.m.	Mexican Fiesta
Friday 17 9 p.m.	Official banquet The Damien—Dutton Award will be presented during the banquet.

Program for accompanying persons.

Tuesday 14 10:00 a.m.	Sightseeing tour including University City, "Anahuacalli" Museum with its famous offering to the Dead. Lunch included.
Thursday 16 10:00 a.m.	Visit to Chapultepec Castle and to the National Museum of Anthropology

Scientific Program Regulations

The Scientific Program will include: Main Theme Sessions, Discussion Sessions, Free Communications, Poster Communications, Case Presentations.

Themes. I Epidemiology and Control, II Experimental Leprosy, III Clinical Aspects, IV Microbiology, V Immunology, VI Social Aspects, VII Experimental Chemotherapy, VIII Clinico-Pathological Aspects (including nerve damage), IX Therapy, X Rehabilitation.

Main Theme Sessions. A plenary session on the theme "Epidemiology and Control" will take place on Monday morning, November 13. The lectures delivered during this plenary session will be discussed at two simultaneous afternoon sessions. The most important current aspects of leprosy will be discussed at two simultaneous sessions on the following days. Distinguished specialists will be invited as lecturers on the different themes. Each lecture will be 20 minutes long including projection of slides. Registered attendants will be able to participate in the discussion sessions. There will be simultaneous translation in Spanish, English and French.

Free Communications. Free communications related with the main themes of the day

will be presented daily. The maximum time allowed for each paper is 10 minutes which includes slide projection. There will be a discussion period after each session. Abstracts of free communications must be received by: S. G. Browne, 57a Wimpole Street, London W1M 7DF, Great Britain, no later than April 30. Abstracts must be typewritten in quadruplicate, double space, in one (or more) of the three official languages. The text should not exceed two hundred words. The abstract must include information on the session in which the paper is to be presented. Abstracts should not include diagrams or illustrations. Only one abstract per participant may be submitted. All accepted papers will be published in the Congress' book of abstracts, even though some may not be included in the sessions due to time shortage. The latter will be marked "read by title."

Free communications will be sorted by a Selection Committee in London. This Committee will prepare a program of the papers and decide which will be read during the sessions and which will be presented in poster form. Authors will be informed in due time so that they may confirm if they wish to present their papers in poster form. Slides to illustrate free communications should not be mailed ahead of time. They must be handed in the day before scheduled presentation at the Congress Building and claimed after the session against the receipt extended upon delivery. Slides must be mounted on 2" x 2" (5 x 5 cm) frames (thin frames are required). Each slide must carry a white label bearing the name of the author and consecutive numbering in the upper section of the frame, on the side facing the operator when inserted in the slide projector. The projection department will have equipment available for participants to check the markings, position, and sequence of the slides.

Poster Communications. A special area will be set aside for posters grouped according to topics discussed during the main sessions. Posters will be changed every day. They will be exhibited from 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. and will be numbered and listed in the final program and in the book of abstracts. Participants will be personally responsible for setting up the material an hour before the beginning of the poster session on the scheduled day and for removing it at the end of the session.

Posters will be mounted on wood panels of approximately 4 ft. wide x 7 ft. high (1.25 m x 2.10 m). At the top of each, labels (provided by the Congress Secretariat) will indicate the number, title of the paper, author(s), institution, city and country, as well as the time at which the author(s) will be available for questions (see illustration). All posters should be brought ready to be mounted with scotch tape or drawing pins (thumbtacks). Illustrations should be readable from a distance of about 3 ft. (1 meter) or more; therefore, all the diagrams, photographs, and texts should be as large and as neat as possible.

Case Presentations. On Tuesday, November 14, from 3:00 to 6:00 p.m., cases of leprosy—with special emphasis on Lucio's leprosy—will be presented and discussed at the "Centro Dermatológico Pascua," 464 Dr. Vértiz Street (near the Congress Building). Ushers will lead the participants to this place.

Notice. Only persons registered in the Congress may participate in the scientific program. In order to ensure satisfactory simultaneous translation, participants in the main themes and free communications sessions are requested to mail a copy of the full text of the papers to the Secretary of the Congress, Dr. Obdulia Rodríguez, before October 1. Papers may be written in any of the official languages.

Posters. The Organizing Committee will provide a label with the number of the poster, the title of the paper, name of the author(s), name of the institution, city and country. Please indicate at what time the author(s) will be available for discussion (one hour is recommended). All illustrations, diagrams, texts and photographs should be prepared in advance and mounted by the participant himself. Scotch tape or drawing pins (thumbtacks) will be available at the exhibition area. It is not allowed to paint or use nails on the wooden panels. A blackboard will be available for the discussion.

The brochure for the Congress may be obtained by writing to: XI International Leprosy Congress, Dr. Vertiz No. 464, Mexico 7, D.F., Mexico.

Switzerland. *Drug research and development.* A round table conference on "Trends and Prospects in Drug Research and Devel-

opment," organized by CIOMS (The Council for International Organizations of Medical Sciences) was held at Geneva on 8-9 December 1977. Representatives of Member-Organizations of the Council were present as well as spokesmen for the World Health Organization and pharmaceutical companies engaged in drug research.

As far as leprosy is concerned, it seems that our demands for a cheap, nontoxic, rapidly-acting drug, effective in all kinds of leprosy and free from the risk of inducing reversal reaction in nerves—are like "crying for the moon." However, since the World Health Organization through its training and research program in tropical diseases, and particularly its THELEP (and indirectly, its IMMLEP) program, is now more than ever actively concerned with leprosy. It is to be hoped that the meeting will have given a real impetus to drug research at this critical stage in the antileprosy campaign. Meanwhile, a more enlightened use of the drugs we have available and a greater insistence on regularity of treatment should be within the reach of all leprosy control programs.—S. G. Browne

U.S.A. *The Council of World Organizations Interested in the Handicapped (CWOIH)*. This organization was founded in 1953 to provide a means of cooperation among international nongovernmental organizations carrying out activities related to services for the disabled. Its principal function is to assist the United Nations and the specialized agencies such as the World Health Organization, International Labor Office and UNESCO in their work in this field and to encourage cooperation between the nongovernmental and intergovernmental agencies.

Thirty-five NGO's all in official relationship with the U.N. agencies are members of the CWOIH, and five other organizations are associate members. Rehabilitation International provides the Secretariat for the CWOIH, receiving an annual grant from UNESCO which pays a part of the costs involved. The address of Rehabilitation International is: 122 East 23rd Street, New York, New York 10010.—(*Excerpted from Int. Rehab. Rev.* 26 [1976] 18)