

3. Goals, objectives and strategies require qualitative and quantitative identification.

4. The simple but basic element of integrity is the single most human factor. This relates to the decision maker as equally as to the actual deliverer of services to the patient.

5. Ultimately administration relates to justice. Encompassed in the exercise of justice are all the problems of discrimination, legal harassment, stigma and lingering effects of long term institutionalization of the patient, and thus the disease.

6. The need for uniform standards of record keeping remains urgent. While this may as yet be an unattainable goal, efforts should not be delayed. Only when standardized record keeping becomes a reality can we expect reliable epidemiologic data.

7. Training of all categories of medical and paramedical workers remains high on the agenda of improving administrative methods. Is it too early to expect international training centers to coordinate training activities and to agree on program content?

In conclusion I might add that my 40 years' experience throughout the world and the last three years' service in developing a leprosy control program in Jamaica from a non-existent basis, has been a laboratory experience confirming the above principles.

It is profoundly hoped and expected that the XI International Congress will mark a new mood of hopefulness.

—OLIVER W. HASSELBLAD, M.D.
Executive Officer, I.J.L.

Over to You

Who owns the International Journal of Leprosy? A brief and accurate answer to that question is "we do" the members of the International Leprosy Association. It may be news for some of us, that our assets consist of thousands of back numbers of the International Journal of Leprosy, many of which are unsaleable and at the beginning of 1978, a debt of \$28,921 (see financial statements 1977). The Journal is "the official organ of the International Leprosy Association". Its purpose is "to serve as the principle, and truly international medium of publication of worthwhile articles on leprosy" (Int. J. Lepr. 1, (1933), 2).

The International Journal of Leprosy belongs to the members of the International Leprosy Association. Many sponsors support the Journal financially; the Editor and Board of Directors, the Associate Editors and the Contributing Editors, support the Journal through their time and skills. But the Journal will flourish only if its owners, the members of the ILA, really use it for the "publication of worthwhile articles on leprosy". The editor can only publish articles he receives and if the Journal is "too scientific" or deals too often with laboratory research this could well be because quality manuscripts on field subjects have not been submitted.

The cost of the Journal in its 1st year of publication was U.S. \$5.00 and for this members received volume 1 in four issues with a total of 507 pages on rather ordinary quality paper. By 1978 the purchasing power of the dollar has fallen to approximately 1/6 of what it was in 1933 and members' dues and subscribers' payments then as now covered approximately 1/2 the cost of production (see 1977 financial report). A comparison of the International Journal of Leprosy with other specialist Journals of limited circulation shows that the cost of the Journal is comparable to that of our contemporaries. Journal costs cannot be reasonably compared with those of the general medical Journals which circulate in hundreds of thousands of copies whereas we print just over one thousand.

In 1934 the then editor of the International Journal of Leprosy, the late Dr. H. W. Wade, set the intended publication date of the Journal as "the end of each quarter rather than the beginning—March instead of January and so on" (Int. J. Lepr. 2 (1934) 102) and this has been the policy ever since. The process of printing the Journal takes at least 6 to 8 weeks from submission of manuscripts to the printer to publication, for it involves the preparation of 5 proofs for reading and correction. Many of the articles

submitted involve very considerable correspondence with the authors as well as peer review and the approval of the authors of final proofs. All this takes time, sometimes months. (Int. J. Lep. 42 (1974) 65). All articles require translated summaries and these can frequently, but not always, be undertaken while the author is reviewing the final version of his text.

However, the future of the International Journal of Leprosy will not be decided in terms of costs or of publication dates or of the inevitable time lag between submission of articles and publication or even by the often inordinately long postal delivery times but by the use members of the ILA make of it. Membership in the International Leprosy Association has never before been at as high a level as it is now and it is probably also true that more work worth reporting in the pages of the Journal is going on now than ever before.

The Board of Directors of the Journal has expressed the view that the Journal is of value "as forum of international publication, a medium for both binding together and expressing the opinion of the ILA, a continuing link between Congresses, and the spreading of scientific information through a Journal of high standards." (minutes of meeting Dec. 16, 1974). These are admirable objec-

tives and place enormous demands on the talents and versatility of the editor and his staff, but they also place demands on the members of the ILA to be active in expressing opinion and in making use of the Journal as an effective link between Congresses.

In a plaintive note (Int. J. Lepr. 2 (1934) 103) the late Dr. Wade wrote of "silent areas" of the world from which he had received few, if any, abstracts for publication. The present editor's recent (Int. J. Lepr. 45 (1977) 378) appeal to authors and a review of articles and letters published in the Journal makes it clear that "silent areas" still exist today.

Is the Journal worth publishing? The editor thinks so and spends more than 800 hours each year to see that it is published. (Int. J. Lepr. 42 (1974) 67) Sponsors evidently think so for they have contributed over \$30,000 to its funds since January 1978 alone. Do members of the ILA think so? The Journal will be what members of the ILA want it to be. Those of us that have the honor to be listed on the inside front cover of the Journal are your servants in this regard. We will do what we can but for the future of the Journal, "Over to You".

—W. FELTON ROSS, M.B., B.S.
Associate Executive Officer, IJL

Lesion Lodgement in Leprosy

The readily observable predominance of lesions on face and extremities as compared with the trunk, together with extensive involvement of skin and peripheral nerves, are characteristics of leprosy which have long stimulated pathogenic speculation. In view of the current common attribution of this singular localization pattern to a presumed low growth temperature preference on the part of *M. leprae*, it seems worthwhile to consider alternate factors which may be contributory. Reliance on single factor hypotheses of biological phenomenon may obfuscate or delay other potentially valuable investigations. This discussion is not designed to disprove an unproven hypothesis but to note some discrepancies and to serve as a reminder that pathologic processes tend to be multifaceted.

Tissue tropism. Neurotropism and dermal

tropism have had explanatory vogue for this pattern of lesion lodgement but have little more than semantic interest in view of the long lack of relevant, associated knowledge regarding the biological requirements of *M. leprae*. Nevertheless, these concepts probably cover some present lack of understanding regarding growth preferences of the bacillus, or else the predominant skin involvement would hardly be likely. Likewise, it is possible that these concepts speak to a chameleon-like quality of macrophages (histiocytes), in which cells the bacilli are so proliferative as to have suggested to some that intracellular life is obligate for them (¹). If it

¹Suter, E. Some aspects of intracellular parasitism of pathogenic microorganisms. A review. Int. J. Lepr. 22 (1954) 1-11.