

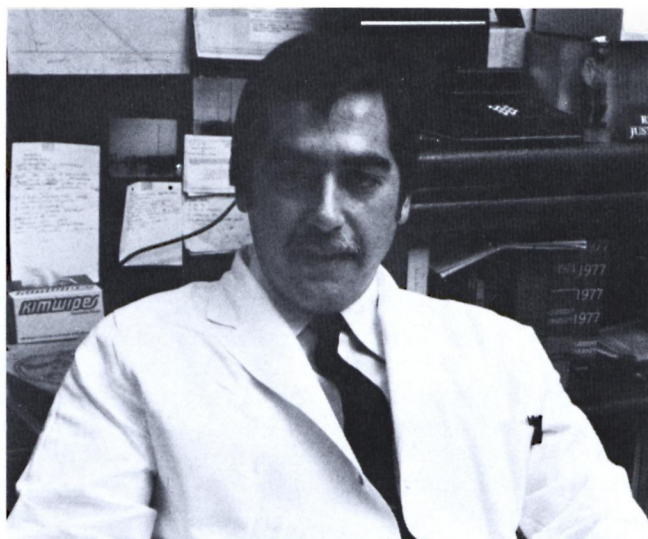
force treatment. A great advantage is that the doctors can follow cases for years in an essentially stationary population. All drugs in use are made in China. The new herb drug is used to alleviate leprosy reactions so that the full dose of drugs can be given without interruption of treatment. Patients live and work in the communes with normal people without many social repercussions. The incidence of new cases, the number of hospital-

ized patients, and the total number of leprosy cases are decreasing. This system appears to be an effective model for leprosy control, at least in Shanghai.

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Dr. Robert C. Hastings, Editor IJL



Dr. Robert Hastings, Chief of Pharmacology Research, U.S. Public Health Service Hospital, Carville, Louisiana becomes editor of this JOURNAL with the first issue of Volume 47 for 1979.

He took his premedical training at Vanderbilt University and graduated summa cum laude from the University of Tennessee College of Medicine in 1962 with Alpha Omega Alpha honors.

In 1966 Dr. Hastings became staff physician at Carville and has retained association with this institution, as a commissioned USPHS officer, save for the period 1968-1971 which he spent in graduate studies at Tulane Medical Center. These studies culminated in his receiving the Ph.D. degree in pharmacology. He then resumed work at Carville, becoming chief of the Pharmacology Research Department, the position which he holds at the present. He has retained an ongoing relationship with Tulane University School of Medicine where he is presently clinical associate professor in the Department of Medicine. As of October 1977, he became a member of the U.S. Panel, U.S.-Japan Cooperative Medical Science Program, NIAID.

His research interests reflect this career interest in leprosy centering around the anti-inflammatory effects of thalidomide, chemotherapy of leprosy, and the nature and treatment of leprosy reactions. In addition, he has deep interest and in-depth studies on immunotherapy of leprosy. These were reflected in his recent well-received and scholarly invitational editorial in this JOURNAL, entitled "Transfer Factor as a Probe of the Immune Defect in Lepromatous Leprosy" (IJL 45 [1977] 281-291.)

While not neglecting other journals, Dr. Hastings has well demonstrated an interest in the JOURNAL and in presenting his research findings to the "world of leprosy" by publishing a continuous series of significant papers in this JOURNAL.

It is evident that the new editor is highly competent, has a career interest in leprosy, and will undoubtedly deepen his already committed interest in the IJL. It is anticipated that his work will be greatly facilitated by the remarkably fine facilities at Carville and the strong backing of this well-known leprosy treatment and research institution.

Personally, I wish him well and am confident that he will receive the strong support and interest of the ILA membership.

—OLAF K. SKINSNES

Olaf K. Skinsnes, M.D., Ph.D.—An Appreciation

Dr. Olaf K. Skinsnes leaves a distinguished record of service behind him in his departure as editor of the INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF LEPROSY.

Dr. Skinsnes was born in Sinyang, Honan, China in 1917 of medical missionary parents. After an early education in the American school in Kikungshan, China, he graduated from St. Olaf College, Northfield, Minnesota in 1939. In 1947, he received the degrees of M.D. and Ph.D. (in Pathology) from the University of Chicago. After an internship at the Cornell Medical Center in New York, he returned to Asia and became a co-founder of the Hay Ling Chau Leprosarium in Hong Kong.

Dr. Skinsnes has had a long and distinguished career as a teacher at the University of Hong Kong from 1949-1959, at the University of Chicago from 1959-1967, and at the University of Hawaii since 1967. It is the spirit of the teacher that he brought to the JOURNAL, kindly and painstakingly offering suggestions, at times offering extensive revisions of his own writing, and, on occasion, offering his personal photographic equipment and skills to provide illustrations to authors submitting their articles to improve their work.

Never an investigator who shunned controversy, Dr. Skinsnes, with his unmatched articulate reasoning, has consistently stimulated, sometimes provoked, and always engendered the wholehearted respect of colleagues who, like him, are at the very leading edge of our knowledge about this ancient disease. In a landmark explanation of the immunology of leprosy in 1964, Dr. Skinsnes synthesized a remarkable amount of information and correctly predicted the fundamental concepts of immunology of the disease years

before their experimental verification.¹ This accomplishment came from a keen observer, gifted with an extraordinarily analytical mind, who was without benefit of the concepts of "modern immunology" enunciated years later.

The duties of being an editor involve a complex routine of attending to detail: reviewing manuscripts, carrying on an active correspondence with persons submitting material for publication as well as to other persons in the leprosy community, and dealing with endless publication minutiae to insure accuracy of the final product; it is hard work which has given the INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF LEPROSY its envied scholarly reputation. It is that same energy that inspired Dr. Skinsnes to tackle three particularly distinguished publication projects: the *Centennial Festschrift* (41 [1973] 149-394), the Cumulative Author and Subject Index of Volumes 1-40 of the IJL (44 [1976] 1-574), and *Vogelsang's Gerhard Henrik Armauer Hansen* (46 [1978] 257-332). It is a tribute to his seemingly endless capacity for long hours and dedication to hard work that during the time Dr. Skinsnes served as editor he has continued to maintain a full-time teaching schedule, pursue a vigorous research program, offer significant community service, and lecture extensively throughout the world.

During this period of editorial change, Dr. Skinsnes has offered the widest possible assistance and advice to effect an orderly tran-

¹Skinsnes, O. K. The immunological spectrum of leprosy. *In: Leprosy in Theory and Practice*, R. G. Cochrane and T. F. Davey, eds., Baltimore: The Williams & Wilkins Co., 1964, pp 156-182.