

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.

Germany. *Update on The Malta Project.* The Leprosy Eradication Project, started in Malta in 1972, has undergone a 5-year post-chemotherapy evaluation for the period ending in Autumn 1979. Results show no relapse among bacteriologically positive cases evaluated. This treatment success was achieved with all persons in an outpatient status so that they were able to maintain their jobs and normal social activities.

Dr. D. L. Leiker, the consultant to the World Health Organization who confirmed the results of the project, has recommended that the short course therapy regimen of rifampin and isoprodian be adopted by other countries.

The Malta project is conducted in cooperation with the German Leprosy Relief Association and WHO.

Reprints concerning the project may be obtained from Dr. J. Thumin, Forschungsinstitut Borstel, D-2061 Borstel, Germany.—(Adapted from information provided by Dr. Thumin)

Tuberculosis/Leprosy Eradication Project in Paraguay. The Paraguay Project, initiated in 1974 in several local pilot projects by Professor Enno Freerksen, was officially launched as a nationwide program by the Minister of Health in September 1979. Publicity concerning the project has begun through radio, television, and newspapers. Initially, the project will operate in the capitol city of Asunción, and later it will cover the entire country, including the Indian territories.

Medical supervision for the project is being conducted by Drs. Freerksen, M. Rosenfeld, Vera-Martinez, and Leguiazmon. The program is employing the same short course chemotherapy regimen for both diseases.

The Paraguay Project is being conducted

in cooperation with the German Leprosy Relief Association and WHO.

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Rehabilitation International announces available publications. The 1 August 1979 listing of new publications includes 32 titles in English, French, Spanish, German, and Czechoslovakian concerning a variety of rehabilitation problems including vocational rehabilitation, cerebral palsy, blindness and visual impairments, and public relations for nonprofit organizations. Of special interest to leprosy workers are two titles:

- 1) Pearson, J. M. H. and Wheate, H. W., eds. *Essentials of Leprosy*, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia: All Africa Leprosy and Rehabilitation Training Centre, 1977.
- 2) Neville, P. J., ed., *A Footwear Manual for Leprosy Control Programmes*, Part 2, Sections 2 and 3, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia: All Africa Leprosy and Rehabilitation Training Centre, n.d.

Both of these publications may be ordered from the All Africa Leprosy and Rehabilitation Training Centre (ALERT), P.O. Box 165, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

Further details about other publications may be obtained by writing to Rehabilitation International, % Stiftung Rehabilitation, P.O.B. 101 409, D-6900 Heidelberg, F. R. G.—(Adapted from the listing)

India. *Bombay Leprosy Project issues 1978 Annual Report.* The Bombay Leprosy Project, sponsored by the German Leprosy Relief Association, has issued its *Annual Report* for 1978. The *Report* contains detailed tables concerning cases detected and

treated during 1978; addresses of treatment centers; lectures, health education, and public relation activities of the Project; publications; visits by significant leprosy workers to the Project during 1978; and other activities occurring during the reporting period together with a preliminary report of the Project's activities for the first six months of 1979.—(Adapted from the Annual Report)

*Gandhi Memorial Leprosy Foundation announces courses.** The following three courses of instruction are available from the Gandhi Memorial Leprosy Foundation.

- 1) Medical Officers Training Course in Leprosy (approved by the Government of India—six weeks). This course provides 53 lectures dealing with such areas as bacteriology, clinical manifestations, diagnosis, classification, treatment, prevention, and reconstructive surgery. It includes clinical demonstrations and fieldwork with mobile leprosy units.
- 2) Health Education Techniques (for health educators—two months). This course is intended to provide preparation for the worker-in-charge of urban leprosy centers. It therefore not only provides instruction concerning the basics of leprosy but also the sociology of rehabilitation of the patient, communication skills, and leadership strategies.
- 3) Paramedical Workers' Course (six months). This course provides 80 hours of lectures on general medical subjects (e.g., communicable diseases, diseases of the skin, sanitation, nutrition, first aid) and 105 hours of lectures on leprosy, dealing with bacteriology, clinical manifestations and examination, classification, complications, treatment, prevention, social aspects, etc. Demonstrations are provided for all principal areas of paramedical preparation. Additionally, the course provides two months of super-

vised fieldwork. The basic cost for this program is Rs. 830.

Additionally, the Gandhi Memorial Leprosy Foundation makes available numerous books, slides, films, and photographs dealing with leprosy. Further ordering information can be obtained from the Gandhi Memorial Leprosy Foundation, Hindinagar, Wardha-442 103, Maharashtra, India.—(Adapted from materials provided by Dr. S. P. Tare, Assistant Director)

Schieffelin Leprosy Research & Training Centre announces 1980 schedule of training courses. The schedule includes learning opportunities for persons with various types of prior education and experience with leprosy.

For medical officers a six weeks' course is available providing comprehensive clinical and field experience; this course is required by the Indian government to become eligible for government grants and is recommended for persons planning to be engaged in full time leprosy work. A special one week session of ophthalmic aspects in leprosy during the six weeks' session is also available. Medical officers may also take a five day condensed course to update their knowledge of leprosy; this course is also open to nurses and other senior personnel. Additionally, a one week course is available for medical students.

For non-medical personnel a number of courses prescribed by the Government of India are available. These include an orientation course, refresher course, non-medical supervisor's course, and intensive courses for general health workers, paramedicals, physiotherapy technicians, and laboratory technicians. These courses range in length from three weeks to 12 months.

Inservice training is available for persons wishing training as a prosthetic technician, smear technician, medical records keeper, or in shoemaking. Additionally, medical officers may arrange for inservice training to suit their specific needs, preferably after completing either the condensed course or the medical officer's course.

Accommodations are available in a "Guest House" for senior personnel with Western style accommodations and food, when requested, and also in a "Technicians' Hos-

* Editor's Note: In his editorial entitled "Teaching and Training in Leprosy" (Int. J. Lepr. 47 [1979] 176-196), Dr. A. Colin McDougall invites teaching centers or individuals not well represented to submit material about their activities. The JOURNAL is pleased to include such supplemental materials.

tel," which is an Indian style students' hostel with Indian diet only.

Details concerning fees, starting dates, qualifications for admission, etc., and application forms are available from: The Training Officer, Schieffelin Leprosy Research & Training Centre, Karigiri, S. L. R. Sanatorium, P. O., North Arcot District, Tamil Nadu, South India, Pin: 632 106.—(*Adapted from materials provided by Dr. Ernest P. Fritsch*)

Japan. *XVI International Congress of Dermatology announced.* The XVI International Congress of Dermatology will be held in Tokyo, Japan, from 23 to 28 May 1982 at the Hotel New Otani. The Congress will include a scientific program consisting of special lectures, case presentations, advances in dermatology, symposia, courses, workshops, informal discussion groups, free communications, poster communications, Japanese Dermatological Association seminars, and a scientific exhibition; and social events consisting of a performance of traditional Japanese Kabuki drama, symphony concert, sightseeing, and other programs. English, French, Spanish, German, and Japanese may be used during the Congress, and simultaneous translation will be provided during the main educational sessions. The first circular, including information regarding registration, hotel accommodations, and group travel, is now available on request from Dr. Makoto Seiji, Secretary General, The XVI International Congress of Dermatology, C. P. O. Box 1560, Tokyo 100-91, Japan.—(*Adapted from Congress announcement*)

Dr. Stanley G. Browne honored. At an impressive ceremony held in Tokyo recently, attended by Prince and Princess Hitachi and many governmental and civil dignitaries, the "Special Appreciation Prize" was presented to Dr. Stanley G. Browne, CMG, OBE, by the Nihon Ken-sho-Kai, a Japanese Foundation, for his outstanding work for leprosy sufferers throughout the world. The Prize, consisting of a beautiful handprinted scroll and check, was received by a representative of the British Council, in Dr. Browne's absence. Dr. Browne is the first non-Japanese to re-

ceive this prize, which is the highest accolade of the Foundation.—G. Gordon

Malaysia. *Fourth Regional Conference on Dermatology details announced.* The conference (see Int. J. Lepr. 47 [1979] 524) will be held in Penang, in Malaysia, from 5-9 June 1980 and will include a day on leprosy. Further information can be obtained from Dr. H. N. Chew, 142 Jalan Ipoh, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The conference will be entirely in English. Guest lecturers from Australia, Denmark, Germany, Great Britain, Japan, and the U.S.A. will include Niels Hjorth, Eugene Farber, M. F. R. Waters, C. E. Orfanos, and Harukune Urabe.—(*Adapted from materials provided by Dr. J. H. S. Pettit*)

Status of Sungei Buloh Leprosarium. This world famous institution is officially non-existent, having had its name changed in 1968 to The National Leprosy Control Centre, Malaysia. Most people still call it by its old name, and, in practice, it is still a leprosy hospital although it is no longer the Malaysian Government's policy to admit patients on a permanent basis. Patients are referred for treatment of various sorts but are now expected to return home and to attend local centers for follow-up of their problems. Recent admissions rarely stay for more than a few weeks. In 1960, there were almost 3000 patients living in the settlement; now there are scarcely more than 1500.—J. H. S. Pettit

Personalities in Malaysian leprosy work. Dr. M. K. Bhojwani, who had been the Director of the Malaysian National Leprosy Control Centre (N. L. C. C.) since its inauguration in 1968, left Malaysia on premature retirement in 1976. His present address is 381 100 FT. Road, Hall II stage, Indiranagar Bangalor 138, India.

Dr. K. Rajagopalan, Head of the Department of Dermatology in the General Hospital, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, has been filling the position of Director of the N. L. C. C. in a part-time capacity since the departure of Dr. Bhojwani.

Dr. Lim Kuan Joo was appointed Deputy Director of the N. L. C. C. in 1977 with

major responsibility for organizing and supervising the country-wide leprosy control scheme.

Dr. A. B. G. Laing has been the Director of the Sungei Buloh Leprosy Research Unit since the departure of Dr. M. F. R. Waters early in 1977.—J. H. S. Pettit

Nepal. *Kathmandu workshop on leprosy held.* The second International Workshop on Leprosy Control in Asia, with special reference to community involvement and participation, was held in Kathmandu, Nepal, from 11 to 14 October 1979 under the joint sponsorship of the Ministry of Health of the Royal Government of Nepal, the World Health Organization, and the Sasakawa Memorial Health Foundation. The Workshop brought together 18 participants from 11 Asian countries together with 14 participants from 11 international agencies. In view of the special theme of the Workshop, invitations had been extended to individuals who could contribute their expertise and knowledge in fields (such as sociology and anthropology) not usually represented in discussions on leprosy control as well as those concerned with community health, primary health care, and health education.

The International Leprosy Association was represented by both its President (Professor M. F. Lechat) and its secretary (Dr. S. G. Browne), who acted as resource persons, presenting papers and being generally available. Ample time was allowed for group discussions during which the problems of community involvement in leprosy control programs were identified and their underlying causes explored; then, in final sessions, various approaches were suggested for the solution of these problems.

The full and frank exchange of views between the participants and the experts from such diverse fields proved both lively and rewarding. Thanks to the generosity of the Sasakawa Health Foundation, the recommendations of the Workshop will be published in full in a Report of the Proceedings.

It remains for the governments of the countries of Asia and the voluntary agencies working therein to study these recommendations, adapt them to the local situation, medical and social, and put them into practice.

The first country to have the opportunity to do so is Nepal itself. A National Seminar in Leprosy Control in Nepal followed hard on the heels of the International Workshop. From 16 to 18 October, about 150 national workers, not all from the health service, gathered in Kathmandu to discuss the recommendations and study their local application.—S. G. Browne

Switzerland. *Chemotherapy of Leprosy discussed by THELEP Steering Committee.* The application of quantitative structure-activity relationships to the problems of drug design were discussed at the third meeting of the THELEP Steering Committee in Geneva in April 1978. A coherent and targeted program of drug development activities was also discussed and approved; this involved the synthesis of ten compounds or series of compounds. Fifteen compounds were recommended for screening against *Mycobacterium leprae* in mice, and pharmacological studies were proposed for nine other compounds already being screened. As part of the drug development program, a variety of individual projects was also approved, including:

- 1) a study of clofazimine mutagenesis;
- 2) exploitation of two cultivable mycobacterial strains that are almost as susceptible to dapsone as *M. leprae*, which were received recently from Zaire;
- 3) studies of adverse immunological reactions to the intermittent administration of rifampin;
- 4) procurement of a supply of armadillo-derived *M. leprae* for biochemical studies and drug screening.

The Steering Committee also approved a draft general protocol for the conduct of point-prevalence surveys of dapsone resistance and commissioned various members to search for cases suitable for such surveys. On the basis of studies in rats and mice, the Committee concluded that, although dapsone had been shown to be a weak and indirect carcinogen, the carcinogenic risk associated with dapsone therapy in leprosy patients was of relatively little importance. The risk would be diminished still further if THELEP achieved its aim of developing effective short-term chemotherapy of leprosy.—*Bull. WHO* 57 (1979) 52

United Kingdom. *New journal launched.* Blackwell Scientific Publications Ltd., Osney Mead, Oxford OX2 0EL, England announce the publication of a new journal named PARASITE IMMUNOLOGY. PARASITE IMMUNOLOGY is an international journal devoted to research on parasite immunology in the general sense. Emphasis is to be placed on how hosts control parasites and immunopathologic reactions which take place in the course of parasitic infections. The journal will welcome original work on all parasites: helminths, fungi, protozoa, ectoparasites, bacteria, and viruses. Each issue is to contain original articles as well as "viewpoint" articles, designed to interest as well as instruct. PARASITE IMMUNOLOGY is to be published quarterly at an annual subscription of £21.00 (U.K.), £26.00 (overseas), and \$57.50 (U.S.A. and Canada).—RCH

XII International Leprosy Congress Details Announced. The XII International Leprosy Congress will meet in New Delhi, India from Monday, 21 November through Saturday, 26 November 1983, at the Vagyan Bahvan Conference Centre. Accommodations for meetings, section meetings, and catering facilities will be available.

The standard registration fee for participants will be US\$ 100. Registrants from the SEARO countries will pay half this fee.

Abstracts from persons wishing to give papers at the Congress may be submitted in English, French, or Spanish. These abstracts will be published in booklet form in English, French, Spanish, and Hindi. The last date for submitting abstracts will probably be 31 January 1983. Simultaneous translation of Congress proceedings will be provided in English, French, Spanish, and Hindi.

Pre-Congress Workshops will be organized as in past Congresses, and adequate notice will be given to Workshop chairmen and members.

Further information will be available after the local Organizing Committee is formed.—(Adapted from information provided by Dr. S. G. Browne)

New ILA members approved. Since the conclusion of the XI International Leprosy Congress, in November 1978, 13 applica-

tions for membership in the International Leprosy Association have been approved by the membership committee consisting of Drs. Stanley G. Browne, C. K. Job, and M. F. R. Waters. Eight further applications are pending.—(Adapted from information provided by Dr. S. G. Browne)

U.S.A. *Dr. N. H. Antia becomes Honorary Fellow of ACS.* Dr. N. H. Antia, Honorary Professor of Plastic Surgery at the University of Bombay, India, and Chief of the Department of Plastic Surgery at J. J. Hospital, Tata, was one of four eminent surgeons recently awarded Honorary Fellowship in the American College of Surgeons. The Honorary Fellowships were presented by Dr. William A. Altemeier, outgoing President of the College, during convocation ceremonies on 25 October 1979 at the 65th annual Clinical Congress in Chicago, Illinois, U.S.A.

The title of Honorary Fellowship is a special recognition because by College law no more than 100 living individuals may hold Honorary Fellowship at any one time. At present, there are 94 living Honorary Fellows; a total of 287 Honorary Fellowships have been awarded since the first Convocation of the Congress in 1913.

In the citation for Dr. Antia, presented by Dr. J. E. Murray of Boston, Massachusetts, U.S.A., mention is made of the contributions by Dr. Antia in developing innovative operations to repair the ear, palate, hand, foot, genitalia, and face as well as his contributions in rehabilitation, research, and socio-economic medical planning. While noting his principal contribution in leprosy, Dr. Antia's work on burns, other subjects of plastic and reconstructive surgery, and socio-economic questions is also recognized.

The other distinguished surgeons honored by Honorary Fellowships were Dr. Lars Gustaf Fritjof, Stockholm, Sweden; Dr. H. D'A. Sutherland, Melbourne, Australia; and Dr. H. L. Wullstein, Würzburg, Germany.—(Adapted from Bull. Am. College Surg. 64 [1979] 23–28)

National Council for International Health establishes headquarters. The National Council for International Health (NCIH) announced the establishment of its head-

quarters at 2121 Virginia Avenue, N.W., Suite 303, Washington, D.C. 20037, U.S.A. and the appointment of Dr. Russell E. Morgan, Jr. as Executive Director effective 4 September 1979.

The NCIH was organized in October 1971 to promote cooperation and encourage communication among individuals, agencies, and organizations, both public and private, working in international health. Membership in the NCIH includes representatives from nine sponsoring organizations, General Assembly members who are elected from the private and voluntary organization community, representatives of U.S. government agencies, and selected at-large members. The sponsoring agencies are: American Dental Association, American Hospital Association, American Medical Association, American Nurses' Association, American Public Health Association, American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene, association of Schools of Public Health, National Council of Churches, and the National Medical Association. Government agencies include: Agency for International Development and the Departments of Health, Education and Welfare; Agriculture; Defense; and State.

The NCIH recently held its 6th Annual International Health Conference at American University, Washington, D.C. The conference theme was "Health for Humanity: The Private Sector in Primary Health Care" and included representation from a wide range of U.S. organizations involved in international health, authorities on relevant subjects, and health and development leaders from both developing and developed nations.

The 1980 International Health Conference, sponsored by the NCIH, will be held on 11-13 June 1980 at George Washington University, Health Science Center, Washington, D.C. The theme of the conference will be "International Health—Measuring Progress." The four areas of evaluation to be considered will be: a) Outcomes—What is realistic?; b) Process indicators—coverage, equity, community participation; c) Cost/benefit concepts and their application to measuring health programs in developing countries; d) Evaluating the management of services involved in delivering health in developing countries.—(*Adapted from NCIH news releases*)