

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.

China. *Institute of Dermatology, CAMS, relocated.* The relocation of the Institute of Dermatology of the Chinese Academy of Medical Sciences from Taizhou to a new site in the metropolitan Nanjing (Nanking) area was completed last August. Established in 1954, the Institute has major responsibility for organizing and supervising the country-wide leprosy projects. It also deals with dermatology, venereology, mycology, dermatopathology, pharmacology, and immunology. Two journals chiefly devoted to research in dermatology and leprology are published by the Institute—the “Chinese Journal of Dermatology” and “Foreign Medicine, Section 13, Dermatology.” Each issue (four a year) of the former contains original articles, case reports, clinical experiences, news and information, etc. The latter is published quarterly and contains translations and abstracts of articles from foreign journals throughout the world. To update the knowledge of development, science, and technology in the fields of dermatology and leprology, the Institute frequently holds various kinds of orientation and refresher courses on dermatology, leprology, mycology, and dermatopathology to suit the specific needs of medical personnel in China.

The new site of the Institute is designed architecturally in accordance with the actual demands of the Institute, which comprises a hospital building with 100 beds together with an outpatient clinic for daily attendance of 700–1000 patients with skin diseases, an eight-storey building for scientific research laboratories and teaching facilities, and seven apartment buildings for housing the Institute’s staff.—Dr. Ye Gan-yun

France. *Tendances Nouvelles en Léprologie, 4–6 Novembre 1985, Sousse (Tunisie).* Le sixième Congrès International de l’Association des Léprologues de langue

Française se tiendra à la Faculté de Médecine de Sousse.

Il comprendra des rapports, et des communications libres sous forme orale et sous forme de posters, sur tous les aspects, cliniques et fondamentaux, de la lèpre: immunologie, bactériologie, épidémiologie, thérapeutique médicale, chirurgie, aspects cliniques, aspects sociaux.

Renseignements et inscriptions: Pr Bechir Jomaa, Service de Dermatologie, Hôpital Farhat Ached, Sousse (Tunisie).

Résumés des communications libres (moins de 250 mots, en 4 exemplaires) à adresser avant le 1^{er} mai 1985 au Dr Daniel Wallach, Hôpital Saint-Louis, 75475 Paris Cedex 10.

Greece. *CIOMS International Conference.* The Council for International Organizations of Medical Sciences (CIOMS) arranged an International Conference in Athens from 29 October to 2 November 1984 on the theme “Health Policy, Ethics, and Human Values.” About 120 participants from 40 countries—health planners, ethicists, cultural and religious leaders, as well as eminent medical men and women—joined in lively discussion and debate around the subject “The non-medical aspects of health policy making.”

The International Leprosy Association (a founder-member of CIOMS) was represented by its present and past secretaries, Drs. R. H. Thangaraj and Stanley Browne. Dr. Thangaraj was invited to address the conference on “Hinduism,” while Dr. Browne was rapporteur of one of the working groups.

The conference stressed the importance of the social, cultural, and religious components that were essential if the WHO slogan “Health for All by the Year 2000” is to become an actuality. Under the firm and genial chairmanship of Dr. J. H. Bryant (the

main organizer) and thanks to the excellent preparation of Dr. Z. Bankowski (secretary of CIOMS), the participants thrashed out many of the implications of health policy as it affects the peoples of the world.—S. G. Browne

India. *Central Leprosy Teaching and Research Institute, Chengalpattu, 1982 Annual Report.* It is a pleasure to present the Annual Report of the Central Leprosy Teaching & Research Institute, Chengalpattu, for the year 1982. This was a year of large expansion in the research activities inasmuch as seven new research projects were cleared for ICMR funding and the projects were distributed both in the field and in the laboratory. This is in addition to the activities of the ICMR Unit which has been continuing. Collaboration with TDR, i.e., the THELEP trials and secondary dapsone-resistant studies are continuing, and much useful data have been collected regarding the efficacy of various regimens that are being investigated. Apart from the above-cited TDR projects, the Institute has carried out some work in the field of immuno-epidemiology with the assistance of SEARO/WHO, New Delhi. The various activities are summarized in the report.

The Institute now has facilities for taking more trainees for the courses of laboratory technicians and nonmedical supervisors than in previous years. As in the earlier years, a large number of WHO Fellows visited the Institute for their training and research work.—(From the Preface by R. G. Roy)

Involvement of medical students in leprosy through video films and books. The XIII Biennial Conference of the Indian Association of Leprologists was held in Bombay in November 1983, and the facilities offered by the medical colleges in the city (Grant Medical College and TN Medical College, in particular) were largely responsible for the success of this conference. The object of exposing medical students and staff to recent advances in leprosy was amply fulfilled by holding the conference in the auditorium of the TN Medical College.

The Organizing Committee of the XIII Biennial Conference decided to donate a set of books and journals on leprosy to all of

the medical colleges in the city so as to expose both undergraduate and post-graduate medical students continuously to recent advances in leprosy. The presentations were made in collaboration with LTM Medical College, Sion, with the help of Dean Dr. N. A. Dhabolkar and Dr. (Mrs.) Gopa Kothari, Professor and Head of the Department of Preventive and Social Medicine, on 11 October 1984 on the college premises. Mr. D. K. Afzulpurkar, Additional Municipal Commissioner, was the chief guest and presented the books to the deans of the different colleges.

On this occasion the Bombay Leprosy Project screened a few video cassettes on leprosy to mark the beginning of a massive program contemplated by the Project to continuously expose the medical fraternity to the subject of leprosy through audiovisual equipment so kindly donated by LEP-RA, an international leprosy organization. Mr. D. K. Afzulpurkar inaugurated this program by switching on the audiovisual equipment. Dr. R. Ganapati, Vice President of the Indian Association of Leprologists, requested the deans of all the medical colleges to make use of this equipment for the benefit of their students by sending students in small groups to the project office. Dr. M. V. Yellapurkar, Vice Chairman of the Conference, stressed the need for removal of the social stigma and fear attached to leprosy prevalent even among the medical profession.

Dr. Gopa Kothari, while proposing a vote of thanks, welcomed this new approach and suggested that leprosy teaching begin right from the pre-clinical stage.—R. Ganapati

Padma Shri awarded to Dr. H. Srinivasan. Dr. H. Srinivasan, Deputy Director, Central Leprosy Teaching and Research Institute, Chingleput, was awarded Padma Shri by the President of India in January 1984. This is a highly esteemed national award given to Dr. Srinivasan for distinguished and outstanding service in reconstructive surgery in leprosy.

XIII Biennial Conference of the Indian Association of Leprologists held in Bombay. The XIII Biennial Conference of the Indian Association of Leprologists was held at the Topiwala National Medical College Audi-

torium, Nair Hospital from 18–21 November 1983. Two hundred-seven medical and nonmedical scientists were registered, including a few from overseas.

The function was inaugurated by Dr. Shantilal Mehta, consultant surgeon of the Jaslok Hospital. Other honored guests included the Health Minister of Maharashtra State and the Sheriff of Bombay.

Dr. H. Srinivasan, Chief Surgeon and Deputy Director of the Central Leprosy Teaching and Research Institute, Chengalpattu, delivered the Keynote Address. His thought-provoking theme was "To Control Leprosy as if the Patient Mattered."

The scientific program consisted of a) papers presented on the dais (57), b) poster presentations (25), c) symposia on "Urban Leprosy" and "Properties of Acid-Fast Bacterial Cultures derived from *M. leprae* Isolated from Leprosy Patients," and d) discussions on "Evaluation of Dapsone Monotherapy in the Field" and "Leprosy Vaccine."

Post-conference clinical and laboratory demonstrations were arranged at the Bombay Hospital (Drs. A. C. Parikh and D. K. Dastur), the Foundation for Medical Research (Drs. N. H. Antia and P. R. Mahadevan), and the Cancer Research Institute (Dr. C. V. Bapat). Field visits demonstrating urban leprosy control activities were arranged by the Bombay Leprosy Project (Drs. R. Ganapati and C. R. Revankar).—S. S. Pandya

Video tapes and slides on leprosy now available. Karigiri Video, based at the Schieffelin Leprosy Research and Training Center, is producing teaching programs on leprosy. The following programs are currently available:

Video Tapes

(available in VHS or Betamax format of the PAL system)

Painless Feet by Dr. E. P. Fritschi

Progressive destruction of the feet is one of the most common and most crippling complications of leprosy. This video describes how this can happen and how one can protect the ulcer prone foot using very simple methods to avoid both the internal and external pressures on the foot. 16 min,

Rs.800 (also available in French and Spanish).

Mice Against Leprosy by Dr. Joel Almeida

Aimed at physicians, this video demonstrates some of the more important uses of mice in leprosy research and treatment. Includes a multiple choice questionnaire. 9½ min, Rs.500 (also available in Spanish).

Healing While Walking by Dr. E. P. Fritschi

This video shows the application of three plaster casts for different types of foot ulcers: a full-length, below-knee plaster; a window plaster; and a double-rocker moulded shoe. All provide local rest while the patient remains ambulatory. The video follows the treatment from time of diagnosis to recovery, showing some of the complications which may occur. 45 min, Rs.850.

Keep Blinking by Dr. N. Suryawanshi

This video demonstrates the medical and surgical treatment of lagophthalmos, the inability to blink, one of the complications of leprosy which may lead to blindness if left untreated. 20 min, Rs.750.

Slide-audio Cassettes

An Introduction to Leprosy Control by Dr. K. Jesudasan

An introduction to leprosy control for medical students as well as general audiences, this program provides basic information about the causes, treatment, and control of the disease. The presentation shows what is actually being done to control the disease in the highly endemic area of South India, with emphasis on the work of the paramedic and the importance of early detection. 20 min, 78 slides, Rs.475.

Leprosy: The Great Imitator by Dr. S. Arunthathi

In endemic areas, purely cutaneous diseases may be mistaken for leprosy because leprosy can imitate many diseases, both clinically and histopathologically. The conditions which always should be considered in a differential diagnosis of leprosy are shown. 45 min, 150 slides, Rs.850.

All programs require postage and packaging charges. For details contact: Sanjay Agrawal, Director, Karigiri Video, Schieffelin Leprosy Research and Training Center, Karigiri 632106, Tamil Nadu, India.

Italy. *XV General Assembly of ILEP.* This assembly took place in the Giorgio Cini Foundation in Venice in June 1984. The plenary meeting included the following items: biennial reports of Ad Hoc Working Group No. 2 on health education and information, AHWG No. 3 on social aspects, AHWG No. 5 on training, AHWG No. 6 on primary health care, AHWG No. 7 on leprosy and tuberculosis and AHWG No. 8 on leprosy in Europe. Dr. Cap, Chairman of the Medical Commission, gave a biennial report of its activities. The Medical Commission met on 12 June 1984 and considered: the role of the Medical Commission and the position of its Secretary; monitoring by computer of multidrug therapy programs; priorities in research, the ILEP meeting in Delhi on MDT; the WHO meeting in Delhi; updating the ILEP booklet on the "Introduction of Multidrug Therapy for Leprosy"; a report by Dr. S. G. Browne on the International Leprosy Congress in New Delhi, 1984. Paris will be the site of the December 1984 meeting.—Leprosy Review

Mexico. *Leprosy and tropical dermatology.* Leprosy was certainly not overlooked at the Fifth World Congress of Tropical Dermatology held in Mexico City, Mexico, from 16–20 October 1984. Dr. Stanley Browne, a founder-member of the Society, had been invited to organize a teaching seminar on leprosy under the title "Leprosy: The New Look." Thanks to the willing cooperation of leprologists from Mexico itself, the U.S.A., Malaysia, and Brazil, the well-attended meeting listened with interest to a rapid review of modern ideas on leprosy and its treatment. Because half of the participants were attending a concurrent session at the time of the teaching seminar, Dr. Browne was asked to give an unscheduled lecture on the general theme "What every dermatologist should know about early leprosy."—S. G. Browne

Spain. *El Doctor José Terencio de las Aguas, experto en lepra de la Organización Mundial de la Salud.* Hasido nombrado experto en lepra de la Organización Mundial de la Salud, el doctor J. Terencio de las Aguas, Director Médico del Sanatorio de Fontilles y Consejero de la Sociedad Internacional de Leprología.

Con este nombramiento, participará con su experiencia cuando sea necesario, en los programas, informes y reuniones que la O.M.S. realice sobre una enfermedad, que como la lepra, supone un importante problema sanitario mundial.

Esta designación, permitirá que su amplia experiencia sea aprovechada no sólo en beneficio de los enfermos de España, sino también para los enfermos de lepra de todo el mundo.

Fontilles celebrates 75th anniversary. On 17 January 1984, the sanatorium of Fontilles (Alicante) in Spain celebrated its 75th anniversary. On that date in 1909, the first eight patients were admitted and what has become one of the world's leading leprosy care, research, and training centers was established. The occasion was marked by a telegram from Their Royal Majesties Juan Carlos and Sofia of Spain. Our deepest congratulations go to Dr. José Terencio de las Aguas, Medical Director, and his colleagues on this historic occasion.—RCH

Switzerland. *Ad Hoc Drug Development Subgroup of the SWG on the Chemotherapy of Leprosy meeting, 10–11 October 1983.* The Ad Hoc Drug Development Subgroup of the Scientific Working Group on the Chemotherapy of Leprosy (THELEP), a component of the UNDP/WORLD BANK/WHO Special Program for Research and Training in Tropical Diseases, met in Geneva on 10–11 October 1983 to identify new directions in drug development. The Subgroup considered past and present drug development activities and reviewed current knowledge of cell-wall and lipid composition and the physiology of *Mycobacterium leprae*. The mechanisms of action of several major classes of antimicrobial substances were discussed, and several properties of two groups of compounds recently shown to be active against mycobacteria were reported. The Subgroup reviewed the methods available for screening drugs for activity against *M. leprae* and discussed problems associated with the supply of armadillo-derived *M. leprae* for experimental purposes.

Several directions for future research were agreed upon. In general, work should first

be carried out on cultivable mycobacterial species and the limited supplies of *M. leprae* should be reserved for verification of the most suitable experimental systems and for screening for optimal analogues. Efforts should be intensified to acquire more basic information on *M. leprae* cell-wall synthesis and assembly, synthesis of characteristic lipids, and other aspects of *M. leprae* physiology. Series of drugs of known targets should be studied in mycobacterial systems to elucidate their mechanisms of action and to provide information on possible optimal drug structures. Emphasis should be given to the development and exploitation of better screening methods.

Future work should focus specifically on inhibitors of dihydrofolate reductase, β -lactams, aminoglycosides and rifamycins. In addition, the new leads to active hydrazones should be exploited further.—(From the Summary)

"Lamprene (Clofazimine, B663) on Leprosy; Basic Information." This booklet, which was distributed at the recent Delhi Congress, has been completely revised and contains a great deal of information on this valuable drug under the following headings: composition, presentation, absorption, tissue distribution, metabolism and excretion, therapeutic effect, indications, dose schedules, toxicity, tolerability, precautions and references. It was compiled by S. J. Yawalkar and W. A. Vischer and is available from Pharma Division, CIBA-GEIGY, Ltd., Basle, Switzerland, free of charge.

WHO meeting on multidrug therapy. A Coordinating Meeting on Implementation of Multidrug Therapy in Leprosy Control was held at the World Health Organization (WHO) Regional Office for South-East Asia, New Delhi, on 24 February 1984. The meeting was opened by Dr. M. A. Rahman, Director, Program Management, WHO Regional Office for South-East Asia, on behalf of the Director-General and the Regional Director.

In welcoming the members, Dr. Rahman referred to the increasing resistance of *M. leprae* to dapsone as the major difficulty in the control of leprosy. Fortunately, based on research carried out by the Scientific Working Group on Chemotherapy of Lep-

rosy (THELEP) and others, it was possible for WHO, in 1981, to recommend multidrug regimens which could adequately deal with this problem. The greater complexity of implementing multidrug therapy (MDT), as compared to the dapsone monotherapy, soon evidenced the need for close cooperation between all those involved in leprosy control activities. Thus, a meeting on Action Plans for Leprosy Control, involving representatives of international, bilateral and voluntary organizations, as well as the WHO Regional Advisers for Leprosy was convened in New Delhi in August 1982. In the relatively short period of time since then, this Coordinating Meeting on Implementation of Multidrug Therapy brings together the same kind of participants to discuss the same topics. This, Dr. Rahman said, clearly illustrates the importance and urgency given by the WHO global and regional levels to the adoption of the new therapeutic strategy in as many control programs as possible. It also indicates the need for cooperation and coordination with governments, international, bilateral and voluntary organizations (national and international) so as to speed up the implementation of MDT in the most cost-effective manner, avoiding duplication of activities and preventing possible delays due to want of technical and/or financial assistance. He mentioned that it was purposely decided to convene this meeting on the occasion of the XII International Leprosy Congress, so that during the same, participants would have the best possible opportunity to discuss the different aspects related to the implementation of MDT in leprosy control programs all over the world. This, along with the experience gained by participants representing ILEP member associations, who in a meeting held on 19 February reviewed the progress made in multidrug therapy projects supported by ILEP, would make their contributions to the discussions in this meeting very valuable.

U.K. Chemotherapy of Leprosy for Control Programs videotape available. The University of Oxford Department of Medical Illustration has produced a 14-min videotape (VHS PAL 625 system) in English describing recent regimens of drug treatment for leprosy. The tape is based on the Report of a World Health Organization Study

Group "Chemotherapy of Leprosy for Control Programs" (WHO Tech. Rpt. Ser. No. 675, 1982).

The script is by A. C. McDougall, M.D., F.R.C.P., consultant in clinical research to LEPRO, the British Leprosy Relief Association. Subject matter includes the classification of leprosy according to both the Madrid and Ridley-Jopling systems; definition of paucibacillary and multibacillary leprosy; unit dosage and regimens of dapson, rifampin, clofazimine, and the thioamides for the treatment of both paucibacillary and multibacillary cases. In order to ensure the safe and effective implementation of multiple drug therapy for as many patients as possible and with the minimum of delay, repeated emphasis is given to the importance of the training, retraining, and supervision of the health personnel concerned.

The tape is intended for medical students, medically qualified doctors, senior personnel in ministries of health in leprosy-endemic countries, tutors and teachers in medical and paramedical schools, program planners, leprosy control officers and supervisors, and senior staff in pharmacies, drug supply and distribution.

Cost is £12 sterling (US\$16) plus Value Added Tax (VAT) and includes postage. Write: Department of Medical Illustration, John Radcliffe Hospital, Headington, Oxford OX3 9DU, England.

"Learn About Leprosy," new *Leprosy Mission International* booklet. This is a strongly produced paperback of 20 pages, illustrated in black and white and color, giving a simple account of leprosy in terms which are understandable to the layman. The headings are: Leprosy Today; The Cause; Nerve Damage; The Feet; The Face; Isolation; Treatment; Surgery; and Control. The text and design are by David Huggett, originally produced in 1979. This is a first-rate booklet which must surely be of great value for non-medical people in the UK and elsewhere who want to learn the facts from a reasonably short text. Apply: TLMI, 50 Portland Place, London W1N 3DG, United Kingdom.—Leprosy Review

New edition of Dr. Browne's "Leprosy." Many who have used the previous edition

of this booklet will be delighted to know that it has now been brought up to date and issued as a revised edition, 1984. As before, it is extremely well produced and the illustrations in color (over 100) are of high quality. All aspects of leprosy are covered. We congratulate Dr. Browne and the Medical Department of this company on the renewed production of one of the most valuable booklets of its kind currently available.—Leprosy Review

1984 Sixth Clayton Memorial Lecture: Leprosy and the Eye. The Clayton Memorial Lecture was established by LEPRO in 1973 as a tribute to the late Reverend P. B. Clayton, C.H., M.D., D.D., Founder Padre of Toc H. In this decision, LEPRO was mindful of the fact that it was Dr. Clayton's personal inspiration which was responsible in 1933 for the establishment of the Overseas Staff of this Association, and that he maintained a life-long interest in the control of this disease. Through the years the speakers have been: 1974, Dr. R. J. W. Rees, "Science and leprosy—progress and problems in 'applied' research"; 1975, Dr. A. C. McDougall, "Leprosy: a continuing challenge to clinical medicine and research"; 1976, Dr. T. W. Meade, "How effective is the treatment of leprosy?"; 1978, Dr. Tore Godal, "Is immunoprophylaxis in leprosy feasible?"; 1980, Dr. Noshir Antia, "Clinical and experimental studies on the causation of nerve paralysis in leprosy."

The 1984 lecture was given by Mr. Timothy ffytche, Consultant Ophthalmologist at St. Thomas's Hospital and Moorfields Hospital, London, and his subject was "Leprosy and the Eye." Under the chairmanship of Sir John Wilson of the Royal Commonwealth Society for the Blind, Mr. ffytche spoke to an audience of over 120 people, including doctors and research workers from various units in London and elsewhere. He described the clinical manifestations of leprosy with particular reference to the eye and gave emphasis to the importance of the epidemiology of eye complications in this disease and to the data which has already been collected by Peace Corps and other volunteers. Much of this work has been supported by grants from LEPRO and results have already been published in *Leprosy Review* and other journals.—Leprosy Review

Robert Cochrane Fund for Leprosy. The closure of the Leprosy Study Center, Wimpole Street, London, has released money which has been used to establish a fund in honor of the great leprologist, Robert Cochrane. The fund is administered by the Royal Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene. It is to be used to finance two travel fellowships per annum, to a maximum value of £1000, to enable leprosy workers to travel for practical training in field work or in research, or to enable experienced leprologists to travel to provide practical clinical training in a developing country. Further details and applications may be obtained from: Honorary Secretaries, Royal Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene, Manson House, 26 Portland Place, London W1N 4EY, England.

U.S.A. Dates for major 1986 seminars at Carville. Dates for the major 1986 seminars to be held at the National Hansen's Disease Center (NHDC), Carville, Louisiana, are:

Management of Insensitive Feet Seminar
January 28–30, 1986
October 21–23, 1986

Medical Seminar in Hansen's Disease

February 25–26, 1986

May 20–21, 1986

November 4–5, 1986

International Seminar on Hansen's Disease

April 6–12, 1986

September 7–13, 1986

Management of the Insensitive Hand

March 18–20, 1986

Seminar on Hansen's Disease for Pathologists

October 7–8, 1986

For further information, contact: Richard J. O'Connor, Ed.D., NHDC, Carville, Louisiana 70721, U.S.A.

12th Annual Conference of the National Council for International Health (NCIH) scheduled. Theme of the NCIH conference to be held 3–5 June 1985 at the Sheraton Washington Hotel in Washington, D.C. is "Management Issues in Health Programs in the Developing World." For further information contact: Conference Coordinator, NCIH, 2100 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., Suite 740, Washington, D.C. 20037, U.S.A.