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ILA FORUM

2nd Series

FOREWORD

As most of you may recall, this publication, supposed to be quarterly, was initiated in September 1994, to be distributed with each issue of *IJL* as a means of better communication among ILA members, on nontechnical subjects of common interests, primarily on ILA itself but also on leprosy activities in general.

There were some outstanding contributions but, as a whole, it was not a success because there were not enough spontaneous contributions to fill the pages of each issue. The majority of them were result of my personal solicitation, and I am most grateful for their positive responses, but that was not the way I intended originally. Some of the contributions were, in my view at least, thought provoking enough which should have elicited some spontaneous return contributions, which unfortunately did not happen.

Over the next 4 to 5 years, while I am the ILA President, I intend to publish the second series of the *ILA FORUM*, not regularly this time, but when there are some important enough subjects to present and discuss. This issue is the first of the new series. As the title of the following article shows, it is my personal view on what ILA should be. In the next issue, hopefully in June, it is intended to publish at least six views in response to my article, both pros and cons. I will request two ILA Officers, two Council members and two of ILA's general members to do that job. After that, I am planning to circulate questionnaires on ILA, to be prepared by Dr. Piet Feenstra, ILA Secretary, early in the autumn, perhaps by the middle of September, to be returned by the end of October 1999.

The summary and analysis of those returns in addition to being published in a future *ILA FORUM*, perhaps in December, will be discussed among those members of the ILA Council present at the proposed Third International Conference on the Elimination of Leprosy, scheduled in mid-November 1999 somewhere in Africa.

If that group judges that there are enough members wishing to make some changes, then a committee of a few Council members will be asked to plan a suitable form for a postal referendum, which will be mailed to all existing ILA members, perhaps by April 2000, to be returned by the end of June 2000.

According to the results of the referendum, of the majority of those who respond by the designated time, a small committee of the ILA Council, perhaps four Vice-Presidents plus one or two Officers, will be asked to formulate proposals which will be presented and acted upon by the full Council meeting at the time of the ILA Asian Congress, expected to be held in September/October 2000 in India.

Any changes of the ILA Constitution deemed necessary, even only wordings and not real substance, still require voting at the General Meeting of Members, and that has to wait until the next Congress in Brazil.

Although that is my plan, it is entirely up to the current members to decide whether such changes are necessary or even warranted. My real wish in this exercise is that every existing member at least take the issue seriously and act as required, by responding to the questionnaire first and, depending on that, then to the referendum and, finally, to come and vote at the General Meeting of Members at the 16th Congress. We could consider a postal voting for those who are unable to come to Brazil, even though the current ILA Constitution does not require it.

What I am not prepared to accept is indifference among our members on the issue of ILA itself. I am now paying due respect to the feelings of the current silent majority. But in Brazil, a silent majority then will be no entity at all.

Dr. Yo Yuasa
ILA President

WHAT SHOULD ILA BE? - A PERSONAL VIEW

- Yo Yuasa -

ILA President

Introduction

Although I am its President for a second term, I must confess that I am still incapable of defining the current ILA accurately. My first contact with it was in 1958, when the 7th International Congress of Leprology, which was the title of our Congresses in those days, was held in Tokyo. I was appointed as a liaison between ILA, (represented by Dr. H. W. Wade, its President, Dr. E. Muir, its Secretary and Dr. J. Ross Inness, its Secretary-Designate and the *de facto* Secretary of the Congress) and the Japanese Organizing Committee. In fact, it was those three doctors who, immediately after the Congress, persuaded me to go to medical school at the age of over 30, saying that I should have a medical qualification, especially if I wanted to work overseas, even if my main interest was in the social aspects of leprosy. I am forever grateful to those three eminent doctors in leprosy, plus Dr. S. G. Browne, who became my mentor after the untimely death of Dr. Ross Inness, for their advice and subsequent support in making me what I am today. However, somehow it never occurred to me to join ILA, even after starting my leprosy work by joining The Leprosy Mission in 1970. I thought rather vaguely that ILA consists of people whose interests are somewhat different from mine, which was the rather down-to-earth daily care of the patients as a clinician in a developing country, while those of ILA members, judging them mainly from IJL, were rather at a stratospheric height of leprosy study.

I had to join ILA when I was asked to be the Secretary of the Association by Dr. Wayne Meyers, my predecessor as the ILA President. The reason for my acceptance of that post was a sense of indebtedness to those four outstanding ILA Officers, and serving a term as Secretary was meant to be a symbolic repayment. It is amazing how things can develop unexpectedly), and I ended up as the President at the Orlando Congress. To be honest, I have never been really comfortable either as the Secretary or the President over the last 10 years because I was never sure of what ILA is, at the same time becoming more and more aware of the probable discrepancies between what I think it has been and what I believe it could and should be. The acceptance of my second term as ILA President, due to strong external pressure from an unexpected corner only a few months before the Congress when I was having discussions with a potential successor of my own choice,

was of course ultimately my own choice, and the reason then was my very personal sense of duty to a necessary reform of the Association as I see it.

As many of you have witnessed in Beijing, some with delight but others with horror, the format of the 15th Congress had been changed quite drastically. I did that because I was told by my fellow ILA Officers that it is a President's prerogative to decide what sort of Congress we should have. Although ILA is mainly responsible for organizing the Congress, it has two co-sponsors in WHO and ILEP with their own firm ideas. Besides, two third or more of the participants in recent Congresses have been non-ILA members. Thus without too much fear, I could organize the Beijing Congress to suit what I considered to be the needs of the prospective participants. I am now getting returns off the questionnaires which were sent out to all the participants, and they clearly show that the majority of them definitely liked the new format but, equally, the returns indicate that many ILA members, especially those in research in the West, definitely did not like it. There is no surprise in that at all, although it is a difficult and, at present, almost insoluble problem to reconcile the needs of two diverse groups in a single one-week meeting. Perhaps we should run two Congresses concurrently, one smaller and scientific and the other much larger and nonscientific (meaning control and social aspects), with only the opening and closing sessions together.

However, trying to change the character of ILA itself is quite a different matter altogether. It needs the consent of a majority of the current members, and the President has only a single vote to cast, like any other member. There are a number of current members, some within the Council, who favor some changes, changes even more radical than mine. They are the more vociferous members of ILA, willing to come to the General Meeting of Members on the final day of the Congress and openly demand some changes. But if my guess is correct, they are still a minority within the Association, leaving a silent majority who are either satisfied with the current ILA and thus wishing no change, or perhaps do not care much one way or the other, provided the "status quo" is maintained.

Fully realizing this state of affairs, I am starting a series of events which I have already described in the Foreword of this issue. If all goes well according to my plan, it will end in a postal referendum in the summer of the year 2000, result of which will be considered and appropriate actions, if any, taken at the full Council meeting, which I am calling on the occasion of the ILA Asian Congress in India in October/November 2000. If at all, I shall propose changes in technical details of the Bylaws only, while leaving changes in the Constitution, such as objectives and memberships, to the General Meeting of Members at the time of the 16th International Leprosy Congress to be held probably in the year 2002 rather than 2003 somewhere

in Brazil.

Why changes now?

At this point, it is necessary to consider the reasons for changes now. Apart from the reasons to be explained in the next section, which one might call ideological, there are more mundane but rather urgent reasons which are primarily financial.

The size of our membership is slowly but steadily contracting, mainly due to loss of our scientific colleagues for very understandable reasons. They seem to find less interests and/or opportunities in engaging in leprosy research. This trend, which is certainly regrettable but beyond our control, is likely to continue. Thus, our income from the membership fees of self-financing individuals is steadily being reduced. There seems to be ample opportunities for a large increase in membership from leprosy workers, both medical and social, in endemic countries whose activities are likely to continue. But for them, the current membership fee tied to the IJL subscription is simply prohibitive. It is suggested that US\$10-US\$20 annually would be an affordable level for them. Thus, an increase in membership does not necessarily help financially.

Reduced membership together with the increasing costs of producing and mailing IJL are threatening our ability to keep producing the IJL as it exists today. The publication of a scientific journal on leprosy is the only activity specifically assigned to our Association by the ILA Constitution. Its publication nowadays is almost entirely at the mercy of the members of ILEP, and there is a constant questioning of the wisdom for them to keep supporting two international leprosy journals of similar contents and quality in English, thus increasing financial support from that source seems totally out of the question.

Each of the above, by itself, does not allow us the luxury of "no action" until the next Congress. Added to these, the reasons to be stated in the following pages make it imperative for us to take some action soon. We cannot afford the "status quo" which ILA seems to have enjoyed, or suffered depending on one's view, for far too long. I am not expecting everyone to agree with my reasoning for changes on "ideological" grounds, but I hope everyone will realize that without some changes financial reasons alone could doom the future of our Association.

I am fully aware that some members of the Association, including a few on the Council, are of the opinion that if ILA is doomed to die, it is best to let it do so without much disturbance now. Others say that if ILA is not meeting the needs of the current leprosy world, it is better to create another association specifically able to meet such needs. I happen to disagree very strongly with such ideas. I firmly believe that both the name and the

substance of ILA are worth preserving because, at least in my view, the founding fathers of our Association made sure, in our Constitution and Bylaws, of our continued existence and expected contributions to global leprosy work. Creation of such an organization was seriously debated and a special committee was created at the time of the first Congress in Berlin in 1897, but it took more than 30 years to actually establish ILA. Surely we should not abandon such an organization so readily, not while I am its President for sure.

Now let me come to my personal views on "What is ILA?" and "What ILA should be."

What is ILA?

As I have said already, I am not capable of defining either the nature or the *raison d'être* of the current ILA accurately. It is said that it has to be an association of "professionals," to which I am inclined to agree, although without being able to define "professionals" exactly. It is also said that it is an association of "scientists" and "academics." Here I tend to disagree, although I am equally unclear as to what those two terms mean, while recognizing that many of the current members seem to belong to these two categories.

The existing ILA Constitution does not seem to stress that the Association must be "scientific" or "academic", although it may vaguely imply that it should be an association of "professionals."

It states that the members are: 1. Persons holding recognized medical or scientific degrees; 2. or other professional qualifications; 3. or persons who are, or have been, actively connected with leprosy work.

The underlining is mine, and a very loose and all inclusive membership it is indeed. If you take these criteria literally, anyone with a medical, scientific or some other qualification could be a member, even if not engaged in leprosy work at all. At the same time, anyone associated with leprosy work, currently or in the past, could be a member without any qualification.

Why such loose criteria? I suppose in early 1930s, the number of people genuinely interested in leprosy was so few that almost anyone wishing to join the newly established Association was welcome. Is the current situation that much different? I wonder.

As to its objectives (objects) the ILA Constitution states: 1. To encourage collaboration between persons of all nationalities concerned in leprosy work. 2. To facilitate the dissemination of knowledge of leprosy and its control. 3. To help in any other practicable manner the antileprosy campaign throughout the world. 4. To publish a scientific journal of leprosy. 5. To cooperate with any other institution or organization concerned with

leprosy.

Again, very broad objectives indeed, except for No. 4 which is very specific. Almost any activity of leprosy, including its control and campaign, from finding individual patients to rehabilitation of those affected by the disease, as well as more scientific activities to find new tools required for such activities, or elucidating the basic structures of *Mycobacterium leprae* and their functions could all be considered as its legitimate concern.

From the existing ILA Constitution, if it had not been drastically revised meantime, which I rather doubt, it is obvious that the founders of the Association felt a need to establish a network of people working in leprosy in order to improve leprosy control and strengthen the global antileprosy campaign, thus helping individual patients under their care. Perhaps they could not afford to be too restrictive in terms of membership qualifications or objectives of their activities because there were only a precious few who, in their eyes, could be members of the new association they were creating.

Is the current ILA doing those above-mentioned jobs well? In my personal view, the answer must be a negative, almost totally negative I am afraid. Certainly, quite a large number of individual members are now contributing greatly to promote some of the activities mentioned above, working with WHO, ILEP, other international or national NGOs, and technical or academic institutions. However, the Association itself, is not doing anything. Evidently many members think that the Association itself has no business taking any action at all, but that view seems to be in conflict with the objectives stated in its Constitution.

There are two types of associations. One is inward looking; its only reason for existence is to meet the needs or cater to the tastes of its members, whoever they may be. The other is outward oriented, and it exists basically to do something collectively, primarily for the benefit of others, although by so doing the members are likely to derive some satisfaction for themselves. I feel somewhat uneasy with ILA because to me ILA seems more of the former than the latter. For that reason, my original intention was to leave ILA once my term as President was over at the Beijing Congress. But, as I explained earlier, I felt I have to continue, not so much for the sake of ILA as such but for the sake of leprosy in a broader context. Once I decided to accept a second term, it became a matter of conscience to try to be an active President, and that meant I must try to reform ILA, although the eventual outcome of my effort rests squarely on the majority opinion of the current members and, thus, is mostly out of my control.

What ILA should be

In the past, there was no demand on ILA to take a strong stand concerning the global leprosy situation or show strong leadership in the

global leprosy program, although at some Congresses it produced some timely and useful recommendations, suggesting ways with which to improve or strengthen existing leprosy work.

Clearly, the founding members felt a need for closer communication among the few leprosy specialists in the early 1930, practically all of them clinicians dealing daily with leprosy patients. Perhaps they felt their isolation, both in physical/geographical terms as well as in a professional sense, to be a great advantage to their work. Therefore, the exchange of ideas and experiences among the members was obviously the felt need among them, and perhaps a newly born sense of fraternity among them was enough in the beginning. The absence of technologies which could dramatically change the global picture of leprosy, even with the discovery of sulfone therapy in the early 1940s, was enough to keep ILA rather static over the next 50 years.

The appearance of multidrug therapy (MDT) has changed the global scene completely. Unlike Promin and dapsone, MDT has proved to be really effective in controlling leprosy in the world under field conditions, at least as an infectious disease if not as a deformity- and disability-producing disease. A need for strong leadership to direct such a global movement became apparent which, by the nature of activities required, had to be carried out by the field workers of leprosy-endemic countries in the world. The logical choice of such a leadership fell on the Leprosy Unit of WHO and, to their great credit, they have performed their function very well, with the "elimination of leprosy as a public health problem by the year 2000" nearing its end. Whatever its detractors may say, there is no question that by reducing the global caseload by 85% or more, the global leprosy scene in the year 2000 will be quite different, quantitatively as well as qualitatively, from what it was in the early 1980s when MDT was first introduced.

But the very success of this program itself, plus the rather unexpected fundamental restructuring of WHO, means that WHO is unlikely to be able to exercise the kind of leadership required for future global leprosy activities after the year 2000, which will be vastly more diverse and complex, requiring many different tools and technologies and involving a variety of workers, unlike the relatively simple and uniform MDT implementation up to now.

There is another strong group, as a potential leader, called the International Federation of Anti-Leprosy Associations (ILEP), formed by 20 or so of the international NGOs, with combined financial resources of around US\$70-US\$80 million annually. They have been the major supporters of the global implementation of MDT so far, and there is good reason for them to become even more important supporters of the global leprosy program soon, in which social aspects must have an increasingly larger share. But there are

two reasons, one inherent and thus unavoidable and the other structural and thus possibly alterable, which make them not quite suitable as a world leader, at least at present. One is the fact that they are basically donor agencies, and two donor agencies, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank, are increasingly being criticized nowadays for their behavior. Donor agencies have a tendency to dictate the use of the funds they provide in a way not necessarily in the best interests of the recipients. Another is structural, and as a federation it is difficult to have united action among its members.

If both WHO and ILEP are unsuited to be the global leader, then who else? As far as I can see, there is no one at present and the only possible candidate is ILA, not as it exists now but as a reformed ILA. Of course some people, including many current members of ILA, could question the need for global leadership after the year 2000. But I, for one, happen to believe in our mission to work toward our final goal of "A World Without Leprosy," and for that goal to be reached within our foreseeable future, say not later than the year 2050, then globally a concerted effort by all concerned is required, which naturally calls for effective leadership.

I use the term "effective" rather than "strong" because the leadership of ILA is likely to be by persuasion only. ILA is unlikely to have a fund of its own sufficient to undertake any activities by itself. The only way it can function as a leader, in my current view, is to form a kind of "think tank," or several of them, primarily working by correspondence (which modern technology is making ever easier and speedier on a global scale) and not requiring a large sum of money. ILA also will have to be able to market those ideas which come out of our "think tanks" if they are to be accepted by those who are capable of taking action, such as member organizations of ILEP, other national or international NGOs, national health authorities, and even WHO, the World Bank and other international agencies that can take large-scale action by themselves or can prompt such action to be taken by others.

Of course, one great advantage of ILA which it already possesses is that many individuals who are likely to be responsible for taking action in leprosy are those likely to be the current and future members of our Association, although at the moment not enough people in the endemic countries are members nor are the experts in the social aspects of leprosy work.

Therefore, the ILA of the future, in my personal view, must be an:

1. Association which is both sensitive to the needs and capable of understanding what are the existing problems which prevent those needs from being met.
2. Association capable of coming up with ideas and even actual plans to solve those problems effectively and efficiently, and skilled in

"marketing" those ideas so that someone capable of taking action will accept those ideas. 3. Association of strong and clear advocacy for further leprosy work in all aspects in order to reach ever closer to "A World Without Leprosy."

In other words, I want to make ILA a pro-active Association relevant to the global needs of leprosy of the times, and responsible in realizing our common goal, thus bringing satisfaction to individual members who, in turn, should feel proud of their membership in the Association.

Am I too ambitious? I do not think so. I believe we could and should try to create such an Association, in the name of ILA.



THE INTERNATIONAL LEPROSY ASSOCIATION CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS

CONSTITUTION

1. *Name.*--The name and title of this organization shall be THE INTERNATIONAL LEPROSY ASSOCIATION, with its French and Spanish equivalents, ASSOCIATION INTERNATIONALE CONTRE LA LEPRE; ASOCIACION INTERNACIONAL DE LA LEPROSIA.

2. *Objects.*--The objects of the Association shall be: to encourage collaboration between persons of all nationalities concerned in leprosy work; to facilitate the dissemination of knowledge of leprosy and its control; to help in any other practicable manner the antileprosy campaign throughout the world; to publish a scientific journal of leprosy; to cooperate with any other institution or organization concerned with leprosy.

3. *Members.*--There shall be two categories of Members, namely, Regular and Sustaining. (a) *Regular Members* are persons holding recognized medical or scientific degrees, or other professional qualifications, or persons who are, or have been, actively connected with leprosy work. All applications for membership of the Association shall be approved only after consideration of their application by a Selection Committee composed of the Secretary and two Members of the Council appointed by the President: these Councillors will serve for one year at a time. Only paid-up Members shall be eligible to vote at General Meetings of Members or to hold office in the Association.

(b) *Sustaining Members* are individuals and philanthropic and other organizations contributing annually at least US\$500 to the funds of the Association. *Grantors* are those contributing annually a sum of at least US\$1000.

4. *Officers and Council.*--(a) The Officers of the Association shall be the President, the immediate Past President, the Secretary, the Treasurer, four Vice-Presidents, one from each major geographic division of the world (Africa, the Americas, Asia, and Europe), and the Editor of the *Journal*.

(b) The Council shall consist of these Officers, and of fifteen elected Members, who shall be selected on the basis of geographic representation. The term of office shall be the interval between succeeding Congresses. The representation shall be: Africa, 3; the Americas, 4; Asia, 5; Europe, 3.

(c) The President and Vice-Presidents shall not hold office continuously for more than one term, except by a two-thirds majority vote of the General Meeting of Members.

(d) Councillors may not hold office continuously for more than two terms (of five years each), except by a two-thirds vote of recommendation by the Council.

(e) The immediate Past President shall be a Member of the Council for a period of five years following his relinquishing of the office of President. His membership on the Council during this term would not preclude his subsequent re-election to the Council.

5. *President Emeritus.*--The Council shall be empowered to admit to the roll of President Emeritus those Presidents who after their term of office deserve recognition of their signal service to the cause of leprosy.

6. *Honorary Vice-Presidents.*--The Council shall be empowered to admit to the roll of Honorary Vice-Presidents those Vice-Presidents or Councillors who after their term of office deserve some recognition of their signal service to the cause of leprosy.

7. *Honorary Members.*--The Council shall be empowered to grant the distinction of Honorary Membership to those individuals who have distinguished themselves in the fight against leprosy.

8. *Headquarters.*--The location of the offices of the Secretary and of the Treasurer of the Association respectively shall be determined by the Council.

9. *Meetings.*--The Association shall hold Congresses at such intervals and under such conditions as may be determined by the Council.

10. *Publications.*--A scientific periodical devoted mainly to leprosy and entitled *International Journal of Leprosy and Other Mycobacterial Diseases* shall be the official organ of the Association; the Association may, as may be found desirable and practicable, issue other publications.

11. *Affiliations.*--The Association shall encourage affiliation to it by medical and other organizations concerned with leprosy and its problems, subject to approval of the Council. Contributions to be paid by affiliates shall be determined by the

Council. The Association itself may enter into relations with other bodies at the discretion of the Council.

12. *Funds and Expenses.*--Funds for the expenses of the Association, other than for Congresses, shall be obtained from membership dues, subscriptions to the sales of its publications, and by donations. Funds for expenses of Congresses shall be raised through inscription fees, donations or otherwise.

13. *Seal.*- -The Association shall have a common seal.

14. *Referendum.*--Questions of importance to the Association that cannot be deferred until the next General Meeting of Members shall be determined by postal referendum. Any such question may be submitted by any Member to the Secretary, and shall be referred by him to the Council Members by mail for consideration regarding the matter and its urgency. If approved for immediate action by a majority of Council Members replying within a reasonable stated period, the matter shall be presented to the Members of the Association by publication in the *International Journal of Leprosy and Other Mycobacterial Diseases* for postal vote. A majority of those responding within a reasonable stated time shall decide the issue.

15. *Amendments.*--Any proposal to amend this constitution shall be decided at a General Meeting of Members. Such proposals shall be sent to the Secretary at least six months before the date of the next ensuing Congress. The Secretary shall inform the Members of the Council of these proposals, and the Council shall communicate its recommendations to the Members of the Association, at least twenty-four hours before the proposals are considered by the General Meeting of Members.

BYLAWS

1. *Membership.*--(a) Applicants for membership shall direct to the Secretary a written application, in which shall be given personal data, including a statement of the applicant's connection with leprosy work; and an undertaking to pay the dues for the current year after the application has been approved by the Selection Committee. The Secretary shall enter the applicant on the roll of Members of the Association.

(b) All Members whose dues are paid for the current year shall be sent the *International Journal of Leprosy and Other Mycobacterial Diseases* on publication.

(c) Any Member who fails, in any year, to pay his annual dues previous to the publication of the third issue of the *Journal* for that year shall be considered as not in good standing and shall be removed from the mailing list of the *Journal* until such payment is made. When payment has been made and received, he shall receive a copy of each issue so withheld, provided that copies are available.

(d) Any Member who fails to pay his annual dues for a full year shall be deemed to be no longer a Member. Any person who has thus forfeited membership shall be reinstated, without payment of back dues, upon request for reinstatement and

the payment of dues for the current year.

2. *Election of Officers.*--Officers and Councillors of the Association shall be elected by a majority of the votes cast by paid-up Members attending a General Meeting of Members of the Association. The Council shall recommend to the General Meeting of Members those Members who, in its opinion, would be most suitable for the positions of: President, Vice-Presidents (four), Secretary, Treasurer, and Editor of the *Journal*. Having regard to the need for geographic representation, the Council shall prepare a list of Members who, in its opinion, would be most suitable for the office of Members of the Council and submit this list to the General Meeting of Members. In the preparation of its recommendations, the Council shall make nominations on the basis of the majority of Councillors present and voting at the relevant meeting of the Council.

Any Member of the Association desiring to nominate a Member of the Council may do so in writing at least six months before the opening date of the next Congress, the proposal being sent to the Secretary of the Association. The nomination shall be supported by the signature of the proposer and two other Members of the Association, and shall indicate that the candidate is willing to be so nominated. The proposal shall be considered by the Council for inclusion in the list of those to be submitted to the General Meeting of Members.

3. *Duties of Officers.*--(a) The President shall fulfill such duties as custom requires, namely, taking the chair at meetings of the Council and of the Association, and generally giving a lead to the Association in all matters pertaining to its policy and activities, and acting on behalf of the Council between meetings of the Association.

(b) The Vice-Presidents shall support the President in the performance of his duties.

(c) The Secretary shall have the care of all records and documents of the Association, shall conduct its official correspondence and shall keep the register of the Members. He shall, in all ways within his power, further the work and usefulness of the Association, in accordance with policies determined by the Council or the President.

(d) The Treasurer shall demand and receive all funds due to the Association, shall receive all subsidies, donations and bequests made to it, shall deposit all funds received in an accredited bank in the name of the Association, shall disburse such funds in accordance with the wishes of the Council, and shall submit to the President, for subsequent publication in the *Journal*, a properly audited account at the end of each year.

(e) Should the office of President become vacant, the Council shall choose one of the Vice-Presidents as Acting President until the next election.

(f) Should the office of Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, or Editor become vacant, the President shall designate a successor who shall serve until the next election.

4. *Council and Committees.*--(a) The Officers and Council shall be responsible for

the management of the affairs of the Association.

(b) In any meeting of the Council, a simple majority of the members shall constitute a quorum, provided that two shall be Officers. In any action by the Council that may be taken by mail, a decision shall be by a majority of replies received by a reasonable stated date.

(c) The Council shall be empowered to create committees, permanent or temporary, as may be found necessary or expedient.

5. *Meetings.* --(a) In organizing a Congress of the Association, the Council shall serve as the Executive Committee of that meeting and may for that purpose enlist the cooperation of other persons and form such special committees as it may deem expedient.

(b) Any paid-up Member of the Association may register at and participate in any meeting of the Association.

(c) Only paid-up Members shall be entitled to vote at the General Meeting of Members.

(d) Non-members may be invited by the Executive Committee to attend Congresses and meetings of the Association and to present papers and participate in discussions.

(e) A Congress convened by the Association shall be presided over by the President or one of the Vice-Presidents. During a Congress, a Meeting of Members of the Association shall be convened to elect Officers and Members of the Council, to receive and act on reports, resolutions, memorials, and such other matters as may be referred to it by the Council.

6. *Council Meetings at the Time of Congresses.* --(a) The Council of the Association shall meet immediately before a Congress of the Association to consider matters that may be brought before it, and may meet again from time to time during the Congress as may be required.

(b) The Council shall receive and consider all reports of its Officers and all resolutions and memorials prior to their submission to the General Meeting of Members.

7. *Journal.* --The official organ of the Association shall be the *International Journal of Leprosy and Other Mycobacterial Diseases*.

(a) The *Journal* shall be published by the Association through the "*International Journal of Leprosy of the International Leprosy Association, Inc.*" as laid down in the Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws of the said Association.

(b) The Board of Directors shall consist of the President and the Secretary of the Association, together with the Executive Officer and two Council Members, the latter two being appointed by the Council.

(c) The languages of the *Journal* shall be English, French and Spanish.

8. *Dues.* --The annual dues, payable in advance, shall be determined from time to time by the Council, notice being taken of the advice tendered by the Board of Directors of the *Journal*. The annual dues shall be expressed in dollars US and are

payable in dollars.

9. *Amendments.*--These Bylaws may be amended at a Congress by the procedure specified for amendments of the Constitution, a majority vote being decisive. Amendments may be made during intervals between Congresses by referendum. Any such proposal shall be submitted to the Secretary and referred by him to the Members of the Council by mail, after which the proposal together with the opinion or opinions of the Council Members responding shall be published in the *International Journal of Leprosy and Other Mycobacterial Diseases* for voting by the paid-up Members. The issue shall be decided by a majority of those responding by a given date.

As revised 1932, 1935, 1948, 1953, 1963, 1978, and 1988.

Y. Yuasa
Secretary

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