

NEWS

The principles of phase III of prevention of hanseniasis in Brazil

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| <p>1 — The predominant seriousness of the psycho-social problem and the priority of its solution.</p> <p>2 — The psycho-social problem irremovably enchained to the defaming terminology "leprosy".</p> | <p>3 — The solution of the psycho-social problem favoring the application of the measures of Phase II.</p> |
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The 19th Brazilian Congress of Hygiene and the First S. Paulo State Congress of Public Health applaud "Phase III of Prevention of Hanseniasis"

This motion directed to the Brazilian Ministry of Health was approved at the October 14, 1977 plenary session of the Congresses.

Motion

The 19th Brazilian Congress of Hygiene and the First S. Paulo State Congress of Public Health, having profoundly studied the problems of the disease caused by Hansen's bacillus, and

CONSIDERING:

- that in Brazil there are numerous cultural barriers related to "leprosy" which fundamentally impede the application of the preventive measures referring to the disease caused by Hansen's bacillus;
- that the cultural barriers related to "leprosy" produce grave psycho - social dis-

turbances, usually more serious, in extension and intensity, than the somatic manifestations of the disease itself;

- that there is no possibility of removing such barriers through the usual techniques of health education and enlightenment of the public, due to the antiquity and profoundness of the prejudice and misinformation related to "leprosy", constantly being aggravated by all mass communication media;
- that one of the pillars on which prejudice and misinformation stand is the term "leprosy" and derivatives, defaming and counter-educational by their own intrinsic nature as "labels of primary force";

Resolve:

- 1 — To address a Motion of Congratulations to the Brazilian Minister of Health for issuing, on May 14, 1976, the "Norms

on the Policy of Hanseniasis Control" based on the recommendations of the "National Conference to Assess the Policies of Control of Hanseniasis" (Brasilia, March, 1976), complemented by the "Instructions to Control Hanseniasis", issued in February 3, 1977, by the Director of the National Division of Sanitary Dermatology;

H Brazilian Congress of Hansenology

The II Brazilian Congress of Hansenology programmed and organized by the Brazilian Association of Hansenology, will be held in Rio de Janeiro, from June 29 to July 2, 1978. Professor René Garrido Neves, President of the Association, is the principal organizer of the Congress.

New program to control hanseniasis in Argentina

15.000 hanseniasis patients are registered in Argentina (prevalence 0,8:1.000) of whom 7.000 are in the province of Chaco. A new "National Program to Control Leprosy" was signed by the Argentine Secretary of Health, Dr. Iran Campos. Vice-Admiral Bardi, the Secretary of Social Welfare, was present. 23 mobile units will

2 — To manifest to the Minister of Health the interest of both Congresses in the most rapid implantation of the "Norms" and "Instructions" of the sanitary policy which is already internationally known as the "Phase III of Prevention of Hanseniasis".

Lectures, round tables and panels will be organized under the following themes: 1) Experimental hanseniasis; 2) Immunology; 3) Psycho-social aspects; 4) Epidemiology and control; 5) Genetics; 6) Drug resistance; 7) Visceral and ocular hanseniasis; 8) Hand problems of hanseniasis; 9) Hansenic reaction; 10) Classification.

cover the three areas into which the country has been divided for the purpose. The program will be executed by Drs. Chiusoli, Brusco, Rinaldi and Noussitou. Various Argentine private agencies and the German Federal Republic will cooperate.

Adapted from the news in Spanish by Dr. E.D.L. Jonquieres. (p. 96).

"Leprosy" and "lepers" disappear from the Bible

Dr. Felix Contreras Duerias, President of the Association "Amigos de los Enfermos de Lepra" — Fundación Raoul Folle-reau, Madrid — has been working to extirpate the words "leprosy" and "leper" from the Bible ever since the International Congress for the Defense and Social Rehabilitation of the "Leper" (Rome, 1956) opened by the late Pope Pius XII. As a result, authorized by the Vatican with the "Nihil obstat", those words have disappeared from the Old and New Testaments of the Spanish, French, Italian and English versions.

"Skin diseases", is the new title of Chapter XIII of the Leviticus, replacing the old "Laws and tokens whereby the priest is to discern leprosy".

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The "New English Bible" (1970) also banished the words "leprosy" and "leper" from the Old Testament.

Hansenologia Internationalis hopes that these examples in the religious field will soon be accompanied by equal action in the medical scene.

A.R.

Asian Symposium on Histocompatibility

Antigens in Health and Diseases
(Dec. 23-24, 1977)
All India Institute of Medical Sciences
New Delhi — 110016 India

The field of "Transplantation Immunology" and "Histocompatibility Antigen System" is still to develop in the Asian countries, particularly so in India and its neighbours. To create an awareness of the immense practical importance of this modern off-shoot of Medicine amongst the physicians, biologists and other scientific workers, a "Teach-in-Workshop on Histocompatibility Antigen System" was held in this Institute on December 15-23, 1977. The one week workshop was supported mainly by the World Health Organization and the Government of India. It was aimed at introducing in these countries the basic techniques employed in HLA-A, B, C typing with a greater stress on the laboratory exercises. Amongst the teaching faculty for the workshop, we had Drs. Kamal K. Mittal (NIH, USA), Hilliard Festenstein (London, U.K.), Erik Thorsby (Oslo, Norway), B. Nikbin (Iran) besides prominent Indian Immunologists. The trainee participants were selected from different regions of India, Thailand, Nepal, Iran etc. It may be emphasized that this was the first workshop in histocompatibility to be held in this region supported by National

and International agencies. We are indeed happy to inform that it had achieved its objectives to a great extent and may be adjudged as successfully accomplished.

The workshop was followed by a two day "Asian Symposium on Histocompatibility Antigens in Health and Diseases and their biological significance". Nearly sixty delegates from India, Iran, Japan, Thailand, Nepal, U.K., USA, Norway etc. participated in the symposium where free papers on various subjects were presented and discussed and scientific information exchanged.

This Asian HLA meet proved to be a forum where Asian Transplantation Immunologists could discuss their problems for the first time. It paved way to the formation of "Asiatransplant" to co-ordinate further activities of HLA typing, exchange of sera and other information. Also, it will enable participation of the workers from this part of the world in the future International HLA workshop where their absence was long felt and commented upon.

M. C. Vaidya

Hind Kusht Nivaran Sangh, Andhra Pradesh Branch, Hyderabad

A seminar on leprosy under the auspices of the Hind Kusht Nivaran Sangh, Andhra Pradesh branch, was held on 28th and 29th November 1977 at the auditorium of Osmania Medical College, Hyderabad. Dr. S. N. Mathur, Honorary Secretary of the Hind Kusht Nivaran Sangh welcomed the gathering, the guests and delegates. While welcoming, Dr. Mathur mentioned at length

about the various aspects of the leprosy disease and the control measures being taken by the Government and voluntary organisations in the State. About 550 delegates consisting of medical and paramedical workers, social workers representing from the Government and Voluntary Organisations throughout the state have attended the seminar on both days.

XII General Assembly of ILEP

22 voluntary agencies from 20 countries, Members of the International Federation of Anti-Leprosy Associations met in Würzburg from April 13 to 16 for their 12th General Assembly. This international conference started with the meetings of the Medical Commission and of panels who dealt with the social aspects and training in leprosy, International Year of the Child, proclaimed by the United Nations for the year 1979, and health education. The General Assembly, during the meetings held on Saturday and Sunday, invested as President for the period 1978-1980 Mr. Askew, International General Secretary of

the Leprosy Mission (London) and choose as his successor for the period 1980-1982 Mr. Thomassen, President of the Nederlandse Stichting voor Leprabestrijding (Amsterdam).

On proposal of the Medical Commission, whose Members were renewed, the General Assembly nominated as Honorary Members of the Medical Commission: Dr. Gilbert (Geneva), Dr. Wegener (Würzburg), Général Richet (Dakar) and Prof. Janssens (Antwerpen). It was decided to transfer the Co-ordinating Bureau of ILEP to Paris.

College of Hansenology of the Endemic Countries

The College up to date has 161 Founders from 23 countries. Brazil, India, Argentina and the Philippines lead the list.

Other Founders are from Bolivia, Burma, Ecuador, France, Gabon, Holland, Indonesia, Lybia, Mexico, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Portugal, Salvador, Senegal, Spain, U.S. America, Uganda, Uruguay and Venezuela.

The official installation of the College will occur together with the II Brazilian Congress of Hansenology, Rio de Janeiro, June 29-30, July 1, 2, 1978. Its First Congress will be held in 1980, in Brazil, together with the III Brazilian Congress of Hansenology.

All those who send the coupon below or a copy to Dr. R. D. Azulay (Avenida

Atlantica, 3130, 7.°, 701 — CEP 20.000 Rio de Janeiro, Brazil) up until the date of the First Congress in 1980, will be considered Founders of the College.

The principal aim of the College will be ultimate integration of Hanseniasis into the mainstream of modern medicine, study and elimination of all cultural barriers which are creating psycho-social problems and hindering preventive efforts, and research in all scientific fields of the disease. The College is open to professionals in the fields of Medicine, Biology, Chemistry, Psychology, Anthropology, History, Social Sciences, Nursing, Health Education, Communication & others who would wish to cooperate. Members from non-endemic countries will be welcome.

<p>1 — I agree with the foundation of the College of Hansenology of Endemic Countries.</p> <p>2 — I do/do not plan to attend its 1st Congress in Brazil, 1980. Print, please:</p> <p>Name:</p> <p>Position:</p> <p>Address:</p>
