

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENCE

THE LEONARD WOOD MEMORIAL FOR THE ERADICATION OF LEPROSY

THE Leonard Wood Memorial for the Eradication of Leprosy does more than memorialize in its name a great soldier, physician and humanist. It exemplifies and continues one phase of the work in which Leonard Wood himself was greatly interested in the Philippines, in common with other measures designed to safeguard the health of the native population. Lepers had been segregated and cared for through the humanitarian efforts of Franciscan monks for over three hundred years in Manila, but little progress had been made either in their care or in the understanding of the age-old disease from which they suffered not only in this locality but in the world in general. The Philippine Health Service in 1906 began to exercise greater and more intelligent care in the segregation and treatment of lepers, particularly through the establishment at Culion of a modern colony for them.

In 1922 Dr. H. W. Wade, who had long been active in the study of leprosy in connection with the Philippine Health Service, was sent as pathologist to Culion. No less important in the forward movement which has already begun to bear the fruit of progress in the study of this ancient disease was the fact that Dr. Wade's wife, Dorothy Paul Wade, was with him in this station on the fringe of the world. It became evident to both these inspired and devoted helpers of humanity that their countrymen should be informed of the little that was actually being done for these unfortunate victims of one of the oldest maladies in the world and how their fate might be bettered and their numbers decreased. With the active support and authorization of General Wood, Mrs. Wade came to the United States in 1925. Through the influence of General Wood's personal friends and admirers, and by her vivid and tireless presentation of this great humanitarian project throughout the length and breadth of the country, two million dollars was pledged from over fifty thousand subscribers. Additional sums are needed and continue to be offered even in these difficult times.

The men who volunteered their services as an Executive Committee of the Leonard Wood Memorial as it was then formed, the personnel of which has changed but little since that time, did much to inspire confidence in the public that the money subscribed would be wisely used. Their names include: Hon. Robert L. Bacon, Mr. Perry Burgess, Mr. Eversley Child, Hon. Dwight F. Davis, Mr. Robert

W. DeForest, Dr. John H. Finley, General James G. Harbord, Hon. Charles Evans Hughes, General Samuel McRoberts, Mr. Arthur Page, Mr. Kermit Roosevelt, Hon. Henry L. Stimson, Mrs. Dorothy Paul Wade, and Mr. Owen D. Young.

It was decided from the very beginning that the money so generously given should not be spent simply in the care of lepers, which is the business of local public health agencies; but more particularly in searching for the causes of the disease, the means of its prevention and finally its more certain cure. In spite of the fact that leprosy has been differentially recognized since biblical times, far too little is known of any of its fundamental aspects. The horror which the unhappy plight of the victim naturally arouses has been confused with the possible danger of contagion. Although the disease is directly or indirectly dependent on contact, the precise mode of its transfer is by no means known.

It seemed, first of all, that additional material facilities in the way of buildings were necessary in order that a more careful study of the disease could be made in the Philippines where it is so prevalent and whence this great investigative project took its origin. For this purpose something like \$400,000 was expended in the construction of an entirely new leprosarium in Cebu, pronounced by many leprologists the finest in the world, and at Culion in extensive construction in preparation for the memorial's research program. These buildings, which comprise new laboratories, research wards, housing facilities for the nurses and scientific personnel and a cabin cruiser to facilitate transportation, have been completed and handed over to the Philippine Government.

It soon became evident that a medical board was essential in any development of this sort. For that purpose recognized medical authorities, not only in this specific disease, but in general problems of health and disease prevention, have volunteered their services and include at the present time the following individuals: Dr. William H. Welch, *chairman*, Surgeon General H. S. Cumming, Dr. Victor G. Heiser, Professor W. G. MacCallum, Dr. Earl B. McKinley, Dr. Theobald Smith, and Dr. H. W. Wade. This board continues to advise on the general problems of expenditure of the funds which, in addition to the buildings already mentioned, have taken the form of the development of working possibilities in research in the Philippines and certain attempts at an arrival of an international understanding as to what the problem of leprosy means throughout the world.

Thus the memorial has rendered possible the calling of the first international conference on leprosy which took place in Manila in 1931, and an international *Journal of Leprosy* is about to be published by the International Leprosy Association with the financial aid of the Leonard Wood Memorial. Dr. Wade has been made medical director of the research aspects of the study in Culion and sent on a world tour of leprosaria in 1931-32. A recognized Philippine authority in the disease, Dr. José Rodriguez, was sent for special study in epidemiology to the Johns Hopkins University and has now returned to the Philippines.

The ultimate objective of the fund must be a direct attack through intensive investigation of the disease itself and perhaps in several centers where it exists. It was obvious from the first that highly trained experts must be chosen for this work and the choice of these experts and of the problems that they might propose to investigate in connection with leprosy were so important that it was judged necessary in 1932 to ask the cooperation of an advisory committee on research, consisting of the following members: Dr. Frederick P. Gay, *chairman*, Dr. J. A. Doull, Dr. Ernest W. Goodpasture, Dr. Esmond R. Long, Dr. Earl B. McKinley, Dr. Thomas M. Rivers, Dr. Malcolm H. Soule, and Dr. Hans Zinsser.

Before proceeding to the recommendation of problems and personnel, this advisory committee on research felt it essential to be placed in touch with the situation throughout the world, since most of them were chosen not in virtue of a direct and recent participation in the leprosy problem itself but rather through their broader contacts with research in the innumerable problems of epidemiology, pathology, bacteriology and immunology. For this purpose it is planned to send members of this group, as their time permits, either to the more thoroughly established stations in the Philippines or elsewhere for the first-hand investigation of specific problems, the detailed carrying out of which they may wish to recommend to the memorial for determined and prolonged study. During the current year Dr. Doull, Dr. Soule and Dr. Gay are to visit the two stations in the Philippines for the purpose of this survey and for actual work for a limited time in the problems of leprosy as they perceive them. Additional tours of inspection are not as yet provided for, but it may safely be foretold that the personal knowledge acquired and the international interest inspired by the contact which this group of scientists sets up will do much to pave the way for the eventual solution of this great problem.

F. P. G.

SOCIETIES AND MEETINGS

THE IOWA ACADEMY OF SCIENCE

THE forty-seventh annual meeting of the Iowa Academy of Science was held with Coe College at Cedar Rapids on April 21 and 22, with 268 members and visitors in registered attendance.

The presidential address, "Some Biological Contributions to Recreation," was presented by Professor H. E. Jaques, of Iowa Wesleyan College. Other papers of general interest were: "The Occurrence of Mottled Teeth in Iowa," by Carl T. Ostrem, D. A. Greenwood, H. A. Wilhelm and V. E. Nelson, of Iowa State College; "Suggestion as to Structure in Ionic Solutions," by G. W. Stewart, of the State University of Iowa, and "Note on the Purchase Price of a Bond," by John F. Reilly, of the State University of Iowa. The annual academy lecture was presented by Professor H. J. Gilkey, of Iowa State College, on "Building the Hoover Dam."

The following officers and section chairmen were elected for the forthcoming year: *President*, E. J. Cable, Iowa State Teachers College; *Vice-president*, Edward Bartow, State University of Iowa; *Secretary-Treasurer* and *American Association for the Advancement of Science Representative*, J. C. Gilman, Iowa

State College; *Editor*, Mrs. F. W. Nichols, Ames; *bacteriology* and *botany*, W. F. Loehwing, State University of Iowa; *chemistry, general* and *physical*, R. W. Getchell, Iowa State Teachers College; *chemistry, organic* and *biological*, V. E. Nelson, Iowa State College; *geology*, D. B. Gould, Cornell College; *mathematics*, J. F. Reilly, State University of Iowa; *physics*, E. P. T. Tyndall, State University of Iowa; *psychology*, Thomas McConnell, Cornell College; *zoology*, J. H. Bodine, State University of Iowa.

The academy convened in eight sections for the presentation of 152 papers of special interest. The retiring section chairmen made the following reports of their respective meetings:

Bacteriology and Botany: C. H. Werkman, *chairman*. The bacteriology and botany section presented a program of thirty-one papers and conducted a symposium on teaching under the chairmanship of Dean C. E. Friley, of Iowa State College. All meetings were well attended and the quality of the papers was high.

Chemistry: Leo P. Sherman, *chairman*. Papers were presented before the organic and biological section by Henry Gilman and students, V. E. Nelson,