

buy all the necessary instruments, apparatus, etc., fit up a temporary laboratory for the research, dismantle it and dispose of it when the work was over. If the scheme of cooperative industrial research succeeded, more money would flow in and further

equipment such as a spectrograph, a polarograph, an X-ray unit, etc. could be added and even a permanent building put up. If it failed, there would probably be little difficulty in disposing of the standard units of the equipment.

## THE INDIAN COUNCIL OF THE BRITISH EMPIRE LEPROSY RELIEF ASSOCIATION ANNUAL REPORT, 1947

THE All-India Leprosy Workers Conference, the first of its kind in India, held its successful session in Wardha. The increasing interest taken by Provincial Governments in anti-leprosy work was highly gratifying. The research activities were conducted in collaboration with the Endowment Fund of the School of Tropical Medicine, Calcutta, and the Indian Research Fund Association. The summary of the researches included:

1. *Therapeutic studies:* Sulphones, Promins and diazone, in leprosy, were found to yield some results in certain cases of lepromatous cases with ulcers and eye-complications and in those who cannot stand injection of hydnocarpus oil. The drugs mark a definite advance in the treatment of leprosy.

2. *Clinical Study:* A study on the eye-lesions in leprosy has been completed the useful data collected indicating two main types of eye-lesions in leprosy. 200 cases were studied of which 116 were neutral cases; of these 92 were bacteriologically negative, 24 positive, only two cases had complete loss of sight in one eye. Of 80 lepromatous cases examined, 58 were fairly intensive, 22 advanced, complete loss of sight was noticed only in two cases. This finding indicates that eye-lesions in leprosy in India is a rare condition.

3. *Bacteriological studies:* Dr Rao's claim for successful cultivation of *M. leprae* in symbiosis with leishmania culture could not be confirmed.

4. *Transmission of Leprosy by cockroaches:* Dr. Mosser, a Rhodesian leprosy worker suggested that cockroaches are responsible for transmission of leprosy, but this view could not be confirmed by results of the experiment carried out at the School of Tropical Medicine, Calcutta.

Useful findings were obtained in a correlation study of clinical, bacteriological

and immunological aspects of leprosy. Other activities included teaching and routine clinical work.

Among the Provincial branches the scope of the work was enormously widened in Madras. There were 12 important inpatient institutions in the Province besides facilities for admission and treatment in different Headquarters hospitals. In the field of investigation, child leprosy received considerable attention. In Saidapet, a Child Clinic was established exclusively for child leprosy enquiry and valuable data regarding incidence of the nature of the disease were collected. It was elicited that the majority of leprosy cases in children under ten years formed a group of 'pre-lepromatous leprosy' or incipient lesion of childhood. They were kept under observation without treatment and most of them showed spontaneous improvement. It was also found that the closer and more prolonged the contact with lepromatous cases, the more serious the form of the resulting disease. Another valuable observation was that the incidence of leprosy was decreasing in villages where night segregation of infective patients was enforced and increased in the corresponding groups of villages where there was no night segregation. In the survey work in the endemic districts it was found that in the highly endemic area child-rate varied from 10% to 73.8% of the total cases. In the sphere of treatment with sulphone groups of drugs there was some promise in certain type of cases as was previously observed. Some ayurvedic remedies reported to be of use in leprosy were tried without encouraging results. The Provincial Government, the Indian Council of British Empire Leprosy Relief Association and Mission Institutions have share in the Anti-Leprosy campaign in the Province.