

## LEPROSY NEWS AND NOTES

*Information concerning institutions, organizations, and individuals connected with leprosy work, scientific or other meetings, legislative enactments and other matters of interest.*

### FIFTH INTERNATIONAL LEPROSY CONGRESS

SPONSORED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC  
OF CUBA AND THE INTERNATIONAL LEPROSY  
ASSOCIATION

HELD IN HAVANA, APRIL 3 TO 11, 1948

#### *Honorary President*

Dr. Ramón Grau San Martín  
President of the Republic

#### *Honorary Members*

Dr. Raul López del Castillo, Prime Minister of the Republic,  
Dr. Rafael Gonzalez Muñoz, Minister of State,  
Dr. Ramiro de la Riva, Minister of Health and Social Welfare,  
Dr. Alberto Cruz, Minister of Communications,  
Dr. Rafael Guas Inclán, Governor of Havana Province,  
Mr. Nicolás Castellanos, Mayor of the City of Havana,  
Professor Clemente Inclán, Rector of the University of Havana,  
Professor Angel Vieta Barahona, Dean of the Faculty of Medicine, University of Havana,  
Professor Antonio Valdés Dapena, President of the Board of Governors, Foundation for the Profilaxis of Syphilis, Leprosy and Cutaneous Diseases,  
Professor Dr. Braulio Sáenz Ricart, Professor of Dermatology, University of Havana,  
Professor Dr. Vicente Pardo Castelló, Assistant Professor of Dermatology, University of Havana.

#### NATIONAL ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

*Chairman:* Dr. Alberto Oteiza Setién.

*Secretary:* Dr. Ismael Ferrer Pulgaron.

*Treasurer:* Dr. Braulio Sáenz.

*Assistant Secretaries:* Dr. Luis Rodríguez Plasencia, Dr. Ovidio Laosa, Dr. Adolfo García Miranda.

*Members:* Dr. Luis Espinosa, Dr. Guillermo Sowers, Dr. Francisco R. Tiant, Dr. Francisco M. Cóndom, Dr. Jorge Pina, Dr. Guillermo Gonzalez Peris, Dr. José Castro Palomino, Dr. Juan José Mestre, Dr. Conrado Valhuerdi, Dr. Fernando Trespacios, Dr. Ramón Ibarra Pérez, Dr. Miguel Angel Gonzalez Prendes, and Dr. Pastor Fariñas.

(5) Health education, with particular reference to the leprosy problem.

#### ASISTENCIA SOCIAL\*

La asistencia social al enfermo de lepra y a su familia constituye una necesidad fundamental en la lucha contra esta enfermedad.

Un programa de asistencia social debe incluir:

(1) La provisión de instituciones especiales donde los hijos sanos de enfermos de lepra puedan llevar una vida activa normal, bajo la supervisión de leprólogos entrenados;

(2) Asistencia a las familias de los enfermos de lepra para mantener su posición en la sociedad sin temor al ostracismo;

(3) La provisión de facilidades para la educación, ocupación, recreo y vida devocional de los enfermos;

(4) Asistencia en la rehabilitación de los enfermos que pueden abandonar los leprosarios.

#### THE WORDS "LEPER" AND "LEPROSY"†

It is agreed:

(1) That the use of the term "leper" in designation of the patient with leprosy be abandoned, and the person suffering from the disease be designated "leprosy patient."

(2) That the use of any term, in whatever language, which designates a "person suffering from leprosy" and to which unpleasant associations are attached, should be discouraged. However, the use of the name "leprosy" should be retained as the scientific designation for the disease. Active steps should be taken to explain fully to the general public its real nature.

(3) That if the regional popular use of any less specific terms, in substitution for the scientific name "leprosy," enables the general public to understand more fully and clearly the advances that have been made in the understanding, diagnosis and treatment of the disease, such terms may be used as suit-

\* Spanish version of this item was prepared from the final English version by Dr. F. R. Tiant.

†The committee which dealt with this subject was composed as follows: Mr. P. Burgess (*Chairman*), Dr. E. R. Kellersberger (*Secretary*), and Drs. J. Alexio, G. Clavero del Compo, N. D. Fraser, H. Gangerot, H. T. Karsner, F. I. de Mello, R. Melsom, L. Rendon, M. H. Soule and J. Stancioli and Sr. Catherine Sullivan.

able opportunity offers; but it would be unwise to adopt such terms to conceal the true nature of the disease.

(4) That these conclusions should be communicated to scientific journals and the press.

#### LAS PALABRAS "LEPRA" Y "LEPROSO"\*

Se acuerda:

(1) Que el uso del término "leproso" para designar al paciente de lepra sea abandonado y que la persona que padezca la enfermedad sea designada "enfermo de lepra".

(2) Que debe desaconsejarse el uso de cualquier término, en cualquier idioma, que, al designar a la persona que sufre de lepra, lleve implícitas asociaciones desagradables. Sin embargo, el uso del nombre "lepra" debe conservarse como la denominación científica de la enfermedad. Se deberán tomar medidas activas tendientes a explicar al público, de una manera completa, su verdadera naturaleza.

(3) Que si el uso popular regional de términos menos específicos en sustitución del nombre científico "lepra" permite al público en general una comprensión más clara y completa de los adelantos que se han logrado en el conocimiento, el diagnóstico y el tratamiento de la enfermedad, tales términos pueden usarse en la oportunidad debida, pero nunca se adoptarán para ocultar la verdadera naturaleza de la afección.

(4) Que estas conclusiones deben ser comunicadas a las publicaciones científicas y a la prensa en general.

#### DISCUSSION

*Dr. Froilano de Mello* (Portugal): Las palabras tienen su psicología. La palabra "lepra" es secular y no podemos cambiarla. Decir "enfermo de lepra" en vez de "leproso" vale la misma cosa. Debo informar que hay en portugués las palabras más atenuadas "morfeico," "gafo," que pueden ser usadas para apartar del enfermo el sentido anetémico ligado a la designación "leproso." Aplaudo pues, la 2a. proposición del Comité. [Translated from the Portuguese by the Congress secretariat.]

*Dr. Ernani Agrícola* (Brazil): No veo la necesidad de discutir el cambio de los términos "lepra" y "leproso." Esto es una cuestión de educación sanitaria y también de conseguir un tratamiento eficiente como en el caso de la sífilis. [Translated from the Portuguese by the Congress secretariat.]

\*The Spanish version of this item was prepared from the final English version by Dr. F. R. Tiant.

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### SIXTH INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF LEPROSY

SPONSORED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF SPAIN  
WITH THE COLLABORATION OF THE  
INTERNATIONAL LEPROSY ASSOCIATION

*With Financial Aid by the  
Council of International Organizations of Medical Sciences*

HELD IN MADRID, OCTOBER 3 TO 11, 1953

#### NATIONAL ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

##### *Honorary President*

S. E. Don Francisco Franco Bahamonde, Chief of State.

##### *Honorary Members*

Excemo. Sr. D. Blas Pérez Gonzales, Minister of the Interior.

Excemo. Sr. D. Alberto Martín Artajo, Minister of Foreign Affairs.

Excemo. Sr. D. Joaquín Ruiz-Jiménez, Minister of National Education.

Excemo. Sr. D. José Girón de Velasco, Minister of Labor.

Excemo. Sr. D. Gabriel Arias Salgado, Minister of Information and Tourism.

Excemo. Sr. D. Luis García de Llerá, Director General of Cultural Relations.

Excemo. Sr. D. José Díaz de Villegas, Director of Morocco and Colonies.

Excemo. Sr. D. Fernando Coca de la Piñera, Director General of Social Welfare.

Excemo. Sr. D. Leopoldo Eijo y Garay, Bishop of Madrid-Alcalá and Patriarch of the Indies.

Excemo. Sr. D. Carlos Ruiz García, Civil Governor of Madrid.

Excemo. Sr. Conde de Mayalde, Mayor of Madrid.

Excemo. Sr. Marques de la Valdavia, President of the Provincial Deputation of Madrid.

Excemo. Sr. D. Agustín Aznar Gerner, National Delegate of Health, Falange Española Tradicionalista.

patients discharged from institutions, in compliance with local public health regulations. Vocational training should be provided for those patients needing it.

4. The Committee recommends that there be as little interference as possible with the normal lives and usual occupations of leprosy patients certified by leprologists as non-contagious, in so far as this is consistent with local public health regulations and the patients' own medical well-being.

5. The Committee recommends approval and encouragement of the provisions of governmental assistance for the support of the dependent families of patients isolated, or otherwise disabled, because of leprosy.

6. The Committee approves the care of patients with disabilities or permanent deformities in special institutions, so that the atmosphere among patients who are not so disabled or deformed will not have an unfavourable influence.

7. Private institutions for social relief, and those institutions which are collaborating with the governments to prevent, cure or control leprosy, should receive as much assistance from their governments as is consistent with complete freedom of action within the framework of the public health laws of the country.

8. The Committee recommends that existing laws in all countries be brought up to date and raised to the same level as the modern concepts that are the basis of our present prophylactic campaign.

#### ADDENDUM

With regard to paragraph 1 of the above report, the decisions of the Havana Congress on the words "leper" and "leprosy" were, briefly:

That the use of the term "leper" be abandoned in favour of "leprosy patient" (or the like); that the use of any such term, in any language, to which unpleasant associations are attached should be discouraged; but that "the term 'leprosy' should be retained as the scientific designation for the disease."

### ASPECTOS SOCIALES

#### PREAMBULO

Durante muchos años se ha venido reconociendo la importancia que los factores psicológicos que acompañan a toda enfermedad, ejercen en el tratamiento del paciente, especialmente en las afecciones crónicas. Esto resulta especialmente verdad en el caso de una dolencia, como la lepra, que ha inspirado durante siglos, temor y repulsión.

## PREAMBLE

For many years it has been increasingly recognized that the psychological factors involved in any disease, and especially in a chronic one, are of importance in the treatment of the patient. This is especially true with leprosy, an ailment which for centuries has been feared and abhorred.

This Committee considers it important that the Congress, while recognizing the difficulty of making detailed recommendations because of the widely divergent conditions existing in different countries, shall approve—in general terms—remedies for those factors which play an important part in the emotional state of the leprosy patient. Is it not, after all, prejudice—growing out of ignorance of the true nature of the disease on the part of the patients, family, friends and neighbours—which causes him to be feared and shunned, and which thus most deeply disturbs his state of mind? And this same state of mind causes him, far too often, to hide his identity behind a false name, even when his own is an honourable and respected one, and even to fear to present himself for treatment.

The few proposals which this Committee now makes are offered in the hope that they will be found to be practical and achievable. They are made in recognition of the fact that this problem varies widely from country to country throughout the world. They are made in the belief that there are certain factors which are universal and immutable; to those we have tried to give expression. Finally, they are made after consideration of the opinions and experience of more than a thousand workers in the field of leprosy in fifty-five countries.

## REPORT

1. The Committee approves the action at the Havana Congress with regard to the words "leper" and "leprosy." (See Addendum.)

2. The Committee recommends that the Sixth International Congress applaud and encourage efforts now being made for the rehabilitation of the patient with leprosy, and in particular the programme of education for laymen and physicians in regard to the disease.

3. The Committee regards gainful work as of primary importance in the treatment and rehabilitation of patients with leprosy. In each country, choice of occupations must be made according to local circumstances. Governments and private institutions are urged to make every effort to guarantee work to