

**SUPPRESSION AND
PREVENTION OF
LEPROSY, PP. 1-91**

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Suppression and Prevention of Leprosy, pp. 1-91 by Albert S. Ashmead

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ALBERT S. ASHMEAD

**SUPPRESSION AND
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LEPROSY, PP. 1-91**

A83 .
1897

TO
THE MEMORY
OF
WILLIAM ASHMEAD, M. D.
OF
THE COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS
OF
PHILADELPHIA.

P R E F A C E .

I introduce this book by publishing the following letter and a circular issued by me to all leprologists. The object of the congress therein referred to, is the suppression and prevention of leprosy by the formation of an International World's Committee. I also publish an appeal to the benevolently inclined for a fund for the use of this committee.

Contributions of money for the relief of leper asylums existing, and the foundation of new ones, may be sent to the author. Donations of clothing, aseptic bandages and gauzes, etc., will be forwarded by the author to the asylums in which they are needed.

NEW YORK, January 22, 1897.

Dear Sir—I have received from Dr. Petersen, of St. Petersburg (dated January 2, 1897), the following information: "Our illustrious colleagues, Hansen, Koch and Lassar, have received the consent of the German government to invite delegates from all countries for an *official* conference in Berlin. I have decided to attend this conference as the official delegate of the Russian government."

In consequence the following circular has been issued by Dr. Goldschmidt and myself.

Very truly yours,
ALBERT S. ASHMEAD.

A BERLIN!

To all Leprologists—Leprosy has of late become an universal danger. Old endemics are spreading, immune countries and nations have been invaded by this dreadful scourge. It is now better known than it used to be, and our diagnosis of

it is clearer. It is now possible, thanks to the discovery of the bacillus, to recognize the disease at an earlier period, and in cases where formerly the diagnosis would have been very doubtful. Vestiges of extinct leprous endemics have also been identified. By the side of these relics of antiquity, new cases have sprung up, that is, there has been a new inoculation.

Are we entitled to a strong hope to save populations, newly invaded and threatened in their very existence, since the beginning of the century, for instance, the Sandwich Islands, and the Republic of Colombia? We know that in Norway and Sweden, perseverance and intelligently adopted laws of isolation have, in a certain measure, overcome the endemic. Even in the Sandwich Islands, the situation is considerably improved since stringent measures of isolation have been adopted and enforced. In Colombia, where no such reforms have taken place, leprosy has increased in forty years from 400 cases to 27,000. "What will be the situation," says United States Minister Luther F. McKinney, "in forty years to come?"

Dr. Goldschmidt, formerly of Madeira, now at Paris, has brought forward the idea to convoke an International Congress of Leprologists, and representatives of all governments interested in this matter, to discuss the best measures for the suppression of leprosy, and the prevention of a threatened devastation of the world, like that which occurred in the middle ages. It is proposed that each government interested in the subject of leprosy, shall be invited to send an official delegate; these delegates to form a permanent committee, which will meet at stated intervals, and to which all questions concerning leprosy, in every country, will be submitted. The following well known leprologists have announced their approval of this scheme:

DR. LOUIS F. ALVAREZ, Hawaii.	DR. A. BLASCHKO, Berlin.
DR. BOUFFE, Paris.	DR. J. DE D. CARRASQUILLA, Bogota.
DR. JUSTIN F. DONOVAN, Jamaica, W. I.	DR. S. P. IMPEY, Cape Town, S. Africa
DR. J. G. KERR, Canton, China.	DR. S. KITASATO, Tokyo, Japan.
DR. AZEVEDO LIMA, Rio Janeiro, Brazil.	DR. SOUSA MARTENS, Lisbon.
DR. P. A. MORROW, New York	DR. W. MUNRO, London (St. Kitt's, W. I.)
DR. A. MOURITZ, Molokai, H. I.	DR. A. NEISSER, Breslau.
DR. O. PETERSEN, St. Petersburg.	DR. A. C. SMITH, Tracadie, Canada.
HON. WILLIAM O. SMITH, President Hawaiian Board of Health.	

The following governments have agreed to send official delegates: Hawaii; Colombia, South America; Cape Colony, South Africa.

The following governments have been appealed to, to send official delegates: Great Britain, United States of America, France, Russia, Germany, Italy, Spain, Mexico, the Republics of South America, Japan, China.

Queen Victoria has expressed, through her Private Secretary, Sir Arthur Bigge, her interest in the enterprise. The American Minister, Mr Chas. Denby, of Peking, offers to use his influence with the Chinese government for the appointment of an official delegate.

The thing to which Dr. Goldschmidt and myself attached the greatest importance, was that there should be formed a general committee, composed of official delegates from all governments. Discussions of leprologists, about etiology, etc., were of secondary importance, for whatever is known about leprosy can be learned by any physician, without attending a congress. Moreover, it is generally admitted that there is no cure for leprosy. Therefore, prevention and suppression of leprosy can only be obtained by segregation, enforced, of course, by law, and to that effect the meeting of official delegates, not of scientists, was required.

The question of the place where the congress was to meet, was, of course, of inferior importance. We naturally thought of Bergen first. As the Scandinavian government seemed to be afraid to take so much upon itself, we turned our minds to London. There we found an obstacle in the general disbelief in contagiousness. Then Moscow was proposed; and finally, independent of Dr. Goldschmidt and myself, an effort was made and proved successful, to obtain from the German government an invitation to other governments to send their delegates to Berlin. This sending of delegates was what we had been fighting for; it is our plan exactly. Therefore, we renounce our own scheme of calling a meeting at Moscow, content to find our wishes realized, whatever may be the seat of the leprosy congress.

Respectfully,

ALBERT S. ASHMEAD, M. D.

New York, January 22, 1897.

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