

**Leprosy (International Scientific Congress of 1909) : copy of report / of Arthur Newsholme and Sir Malcolm Morris ; presented to both Houses of Parliament by command of His Majesty.**

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LEPROSY (INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC  
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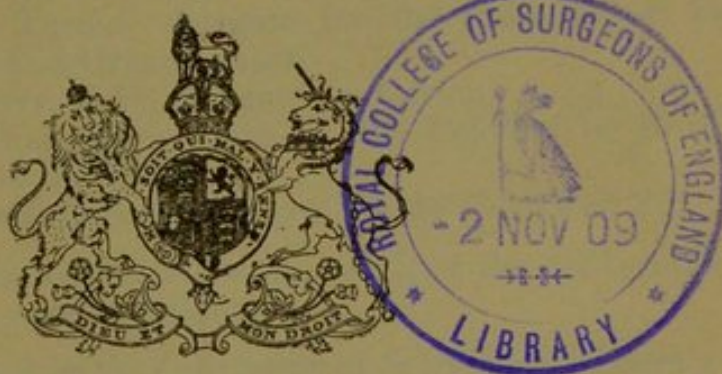
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COPY of REPORT of ARTHUR NEWSHOLME, Esq., M.D., Medical Officer of the Local Government Board, and Sir MALCOLM MORRIS, K.C.V.O., F.R.C.S., the Delegates of His Majesty's Government to the International Scientific Conference on Leprosy, held at Bergen from the 15th to the 19th August, 1909.

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Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.

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REPORT of ARTHUR NEWSHOLME, Esq., M.D., Medical Officer of the Local Government Board, and SIR MALCOLM MORRIS, K.C.V.O., F.R.C.S., the Delegates of His Majesty's Government to the International Scientific Conference on Leprosy, held at Bergen from the 15th to the 19th August, 1909.

My LORD, London,  
September 14th, 1909.

WE have the honour to report that, in accordance with your instructions, we attended the International Scientific Conference on Leprosy, which assembled at Bergen, Norway, on August 15th to 19th inclusive.

The Conference was opened by H.M. King Haakon on the 15th of August, who also presided at the Inaugural Banquet on the same evening, when your delegates and the British Colonial representatives were presented to His Majesty.

Forty-eight official delegates representing 22 countries were present, and a large number of learned societies from different countries were also represented.

The following representatives from the British Colonies were present :—

Dr. R. J. Bull, delegate for the Commonwealth of Australia.

Dr. C. F. K. Murray, delegate for the Colonies of the Cape of Good Hope and Natal.

Dr. George Turner, delegate for the Colonies of the Transvaal and Orange River.

Sir Allan Perry, M.D., delegate for Ceylon.

Dr. J. E. Godfrey, delegate for the Colonies of British Guiana and the Bahamas.

Dr. B. Glanvill Corney, delegate for the Colony of Fiji.

The conclusions arrived at as the result of the deliberations of the Conference were as follows :—

*Resolutions passed by the International Scientific Conference on Leprosy, Bergen, 1909.*

I. The second International Scientific Conference on Leprosy confirms in every respect the resolutions adopted by the first International Conference of Berlin, 1897.

Leprosy is a disease which is contagious from person to person, whatever may be the method by which this contagion is effected. Every country, in whatever latitude it is situated, is within the range of possible infection by leprosy, and may, therefore, usefully undertake measures to protect itself.

II. In view of the success obtained in Germany, Iceland, Norway and Sweden, it is desirable that other countries with leprosy should proceed to isolate their lepers.



III. It is desirable that lepers should not be permitted to follow certain occupations which are particularly dangerous in respect to the contagion of leprosy.

In every country and in all cases the strict isolation of leprous beggars and vagrants is necessary.

IV. It is desirable that the healthy children of lepers should be separated from their leprous parents as soon as possible, and that these children should remain under observation.

V. An examination should be made from time to time of those who have lived with lepers by a competent physician.

VI. All theories on the etiology and the mode of propagation of leprosy should be carefully examined to ascertain if they accord with our knowledge of the nature and the biology of the bacillus of leprosy.

It is desirable that the question of the transmissibility of leprosy by insects should be elucidated, and that the possibility of the existence of leproid diseases among animals (rats) should receive early study.

VII. The clinical study of leprosy induces the belief that it is not incurable. We do not at present possess a certain remedy. It is desirable, therefore, to continue the search for a specific remedy.

Signed by—

Dr. ARMAUER HANSEN, President of the  
Conference ;

Dr. H. P. LIE, Secretary-General ;

and the following secretaries—

Dr. E. ARNING (Germany).

Professor E. EHLERS (Denmark).

Dr. J. M. H. MACLEOD (England).

Dr. J. DARIER (France).

Dr. DUBOIS-HAVENITH (Belgium).

Dr. E. SEDERHOLM (Sweden).

Dr. KR. GRÖN (Norway).

Dr. LYDER BORTHEM (Norway).

These resolutions should be read in conjunction with the resolutions passed at the Berlin Conference in 1897, which were as follows :—

1. In all countries in which leprosy occurs *in foci*, or is widely distributed, isolation is the best means of preventing the spread of the disease.

2. The system of compulsory notification, supervision and isolation, as carried out in Norway, should be recommended to all nations possessing local self-government and an adequate number of physicians.



3. It must be left to the legally constituted authorities, after consultation with the sanitary authorities, to determine the special regulations which must be adapted to the special social conditions [of each country].

The resolutions proposed at the Bergen Conference were agreed to with practical unanimity, only two dissentients voting against them.

During the Conference we arranged a meeting of the British and Colonial delegates, and on the day following the last sitting of the official Conference, a further meeting of these delegates was held, at which the following statement and recommendations were prepared and unanimously approved.

This British statement is appended as in our judgment embodying—when read in conjunction with the official resolutions of the Bergen Conference—the line of administrative policy which it is desirable to adopt for the prevention of leprosy throughout the British Empire, so far as local circumstances permit.

ARTHUR NEWSHOLME.  
MALCOLM MORRIS.

THE RIGHT HON.  
VISCOUNT WOLVERHAMPTON, G.C.S.I.,  
Lord President of the Council.

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COPY OF STATEMENT PREPARED AT A MEETING OF BRITISH AND  
COLONIAL DELEGATES, BERGEN, AUGUST 1909.

We, the undersigned delegates from the British and certain Colonial Governments, unanimously approve the resolutions adopted by the Second International Scientific Conference on Leprosy, held at Bergen, August 16th to 19th, 1909. At a special meeting held by us on the 20th August we agreed to the following additional resolutions:—

1. Leprosy is spread by direct and indirect contagion from persons suffering from the disease. The possibility that indirect contagion may be effected by fleas, bugs, lice, the itch parasite, &c., has to be borne in mind. Leprosy is most prevalent under conditions of personal and domestic uncleanness and overcrowding, especially where there is close and protracted association between the leprous and non-leprous.

2. Leprosy is not due to the eating of any particular food, such as fish.

3. There is no evidence that leprosy is hereditary; the occurrence of several cases in a single family is due to contagion.

4. In leprosy an interval of years may elapse between infection and the first recognised appearance of disease. It is a disease of long duration, though some of its symptoms may be quiescent for a considerable period and then recur.

5. The danger of infection from leprosy persons is greater when there is discharge from mucous membranes or from ulcerated surfaces.

6. Compulsory notification of every case of leprosy should be enforced.

7. The most important administrative measure is to separate the leprosy from the non-leprosy by segregation in settlements or asylums.

8. In settlements home life may be permitted under regulation by the responsible authorities.

9. The preceding recommendations, if carried out, will provide the most efficient means of mitigating the leper's suffering and of assisting in his recovery, and at the same time will produce a reduction and ultimate extinction of the disease.

ARTHUR NEWSHOLME, M.D.,	{	Delegates of the British Government.
MALCOLM MORRIS, K.C.V.O.,		
R. J. BULL, M.D., Delegate of the Commonwealth of Australia.		
CHARLES F. K. MURRAY, M.D., Delegate for the Colonies of the Cape of Good Hope and Natal.		
GEORGE TURNER, Delegate from the Colonies of the Transvaal and Orange River.		
ALLAN PERRY, M.D., Delegate from Ceylon.		
J. E. GODFREY, Delegate from the Colonies of British Guiana and The Bahamas.		
B. GLANVILL CORNEY, Delegate from the Colony of Fiji.		

August 20th, 1909.

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