

Servants of India Society
Poona.

Aug. 1924

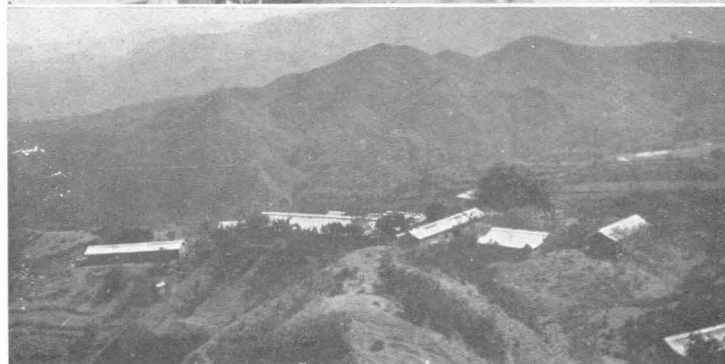
INDIA'S LEPERS



Photo by Author

WORTH SAVING

A HEALTHY DAUGHTER OF LEPER PARENTS.



UNTAINED DAUGHTERS OF LEPER PARENTS.
MISS MARY REED, THE LEPER MISSIONARY TO LEPERS.
SUBATHU LEPER ASYLUM.

[Photos by Author

INDIA'S LEPERS

HOW TO RID INDIA OF LEPROSY

By

FRANK OLDRIEVE

Kaiser-i-Hind Medal

Secretary, The British Empire Leprosy Relief Association.

For six years Secretary for India, The Mission to Lepers.

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Dedicated to

the noble band of women and men
who have been, and are, labouring
for the lepers in India, and
especially to the one who has
been, for more than 15 years, a
splendid partner and a trusted
adviser,

My Wife

PREFACE.

THE purpose of this book is to plead the cause of India's lepers, and, I hope, to convince every reader that a great effort ought to be made to rid that wonderful land of this terrible disease that has afflicted its people for so many centuries. If my readers are convinced that we can rid India of leprosy, may I beg every one of them to translate their conviction into action.

Most of the illustrations are reproductions from photographs taken by me when I was in the service of The Mission to Lepers.

FRANK OLDRIEVE.

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APPENDIX A

INDIAN LEPERS ACT AS AMENDED UP TO 1920

Whereas it is expedient to provide for the segregation and medical treatment of pauper lepers and the control of lepers following certain callings; It is hereby enacted as follows:—

1. (1) This Act may be called the Lepers (*Amended*) Act.

(2) It extends to the whole of British India, inclusive of British Baluchistan, the Santal Parganas and the Pargana of Spiti; but

(3) It shall not come into force in any part thereof until the Local Government, as hereinafter provided, has declared it applicable thereto.

(4) The Local Government may, by notification in the official Gazette, apply this Act or any part thereof to the whole or any portion of the territories for the time being under its administration.

2. In this Act, unless there is anything repugnant in the subject or context,—

(1) "leper" means any person suffering from any variety of leprosy;

(2) "pauper leper" means a leper—

(a) who publicly solicits alms or exposes or exhibits any sores, wounds, bodily ailment or deformity with the object of exciting charity or of obtaining alms, or

(b) who is at large without any ostensible means of subsistence;

(3) "leper asylum" means a leper asylum appointed under section 3.

(4) "Board" means a Board constituted under section 5; and

(5) "District Magistrate" includes a Chief Presidency Magistrate.

3. The Local Government may, by notification in the official Gazette, appoint any place to be a leper asylum,

if it is satisfied that adequate arrangements have been made or will be made for the accommodation and medical treatment of lepers therein, and may by a like notification specify the local areas from which lepers may be sent to such asylum.

4. Subject to any rules which may be made under section 16, the Local Government may appoint any Medical Officer of the Government or other qualified Medical man to be an Inspector of Lepers and any person to be a Superintendent of a Leper Asylum, with such establishment as may, in its opinion, be necessary, and every Inspector or Superintendent so appointed shall be deemed to be a public servant.

5. The Local Government shall constitute for every leper asylum appointed under section 3 a Board consisting of not less than three members, one of whom at least shall be a Medical Officer of the Government.

6. (1) Within any local area which has been specified under section 3 any police-officer or any other person specially empowered by the Local Government by order in writing in this behalf may arrest without warrant any person who appears to him to be a pauper leper.

(2) Such police-officer or other person shall forthwith take or send the person so arrested to the nearest convenient police-station.

7. Every person brought to a police-station under the last foregoing section shall, without unnecessary delay, be taken before an Inspector of Lepers, who—

(a) if he finds that such person is not a leper within the meaning of section 2, shall give him a certificate in Form A set forth in the schedule, whereupon such person shall be forthwith released from arrest ;

(b) if he finds that such person is a leper within the meaning of section 2, shall give to the police-officer, in whose custody the leper is, a certificate in Form B set forth in the schedule, whereupon the leper shall, without unnecessary delay, be taken before a Magistrate having jurisdiction under this Act.

8. (1) If it appears to any Presidency Magistrate or Magistrate of the first class or to any other Magistrate authorised in this behalf by the Local Government, upon the certificate in Form B set forth in the schedule, that any person is a leper, and if it further appears to the Magistrate that the person is a pauper leper, he may, after recording the evidence on the above-mentioned points, and his order thereon, send the pauper leper in charge of a police-officer, together with an order in Form C set forth in the schedule, to a leper asylum, where such leper shall be detained until discharged by order of the Board or the District Magistrate :

Provided that, if the person denies the allegation of leprosy, the Magistrate shall call and examine the Inspector of Lepers, and shall take such further evidence as may be necessary to support or to rebut the allegation that the person is a leper, and may for this purpose adjourn the enquiry from time to time, remanding the person for observation or for other reason to such place as may be convenient, or admitting him to bail :

Provided also that if any friend or relative of any person found to be a pauper leper shall undertake in writing to the satisfaction of the Magistrate that such pauper leper shall be properly taken care of and shall be prevented from publicly begging in any area specified under section 3, the Magistrate, instead of sending the leper to an asylum, may make the leper over to the care of such friend or relative, requiring him, if he thinks fit, to enter into a bond with one or more sureties, to which the provisions of section 514 of the Code of Criminal Procedure shall be applicable.

(2) If the Magistrate finds that such person is not a leper, or that, if a leper, he is not a pauper leper, he shall forthwith discharge him.

9. (1) The Local Government may, by notification in the official Gazette, order that no leper shall, within any area specified under section 3,—

- (a) personally prepare for sale or sell any article of food or drink or any drugs or clothing intended for human use ; or
- (b) bathe, wash clothes, or take water from any

public well or tank debarred by any municipal or local bye-law from use by lepers ; or

- (c) drive, conduct or ride in any public carriage plying for hire other than a railway carriage ; or
- (d) exercise any trade or calling which may by such notification be prohibited to lepers.

(2) Any such notification may comprise all or any of the above prohibitions.

(3) Whoever disobeys any order made pursuant to the powers conferred by this section shall be punishable with fine which may extend to twenty rupees :

Provided that, when any person is accused of an offence under this section, the Magistrate before whom he is accused shall cause him to be examined by an Inspector of Lepers, and shall not proceed with the case unless such Inspector furnishes a certificate, in Form B set forth in the schedule in respect of such person.

10. (1) Whenever any leper who has been convicted of an offence punishable under the last foregoing section is again convicted of any offence punishable under that section, the Magistrate may, in addition to, or in lieu of, any punishment to which such leper may be liable, require him to enter into a bond, with one or more sureties, binding him to depart forthwith from the local area specified under section 3 in which he is, and not to enter that or any other local area so specified until an Inspector of Lepers shall have given him a certificate in Form A set forth in the schedule.

(2) If any such leper fails to furnish any security required under sub-section (1), the Magistrate may send him in charge of a police-officer, with an order in Form D set forth in the schedule, to a leper asylum, where such leper shall be detained until discharged by order of the Board or the District Magistrate.

(3) The powers conferred by this section shall only be exercised by a Presidency Magistrate or Magistrate of the first class.

11. Any person who, within any area specified under section 3, knowingly employs a leper in any trade or calling

prohibited by order under section 9 shall be punishable with fine which may extend to fifty rupees :

Provided that the alleged leper shall be produced before the Magistrate and the Magistrate shall cause him to be examined by an Inspector of Lepers, and shall not proceed with the case unless such Inspector furnishes a certificate in Form B set forth in the schedule in respect of such alleged leper.

12. Whoever, having been sent to a leper asylum under an order of a Magistrate in Form C or Form D set forth in the schedule escapes from, or leaves, the asylum without the permission in writing of the Superintendent thereof, may be arrested *without a warrant by any police-officer or by any other person specially empowered by the Local Government by order in writing in this behalf*, and upon arrest shall be forthwith taken back to the leper asylum.

13. Two or more members of the Board, one of whom shall be the Medical Officer, shall, once at least in every three months, together inspect the leper asylum for which they are constituted, and see and examine (a) every leper therein, admitted since the last inspection, together with the order for his admission, and (b) as far as circumstances will permit, every other leper therein, and shall enter in a book to be kept for the purpose any remarks which they may deem proper in regard to the management and condition of the asylum and the lepers therein.

14. Any two members of the Board, one of whom shall be the Medical Officer, may at any time, by an order in writing in Form E set forth in the schedule and signed by them, direct the discharge from the leper asylum of any leper detained therein under the provisions of this Act.

15. Any person, other than a pauper leper, in respect of whom an Inspector of Lepers has issued a certificate, in Form B set forth in the schedule, declaring him to be a leper, or has refused to issue a certificate in Form A set forth in the schedule, may appeal against the issue or refusal of any such certificate to such officer as may be appointed by the Local Government in this behalf, and the decision of such officer shall be final.

16. The Local Government may, by notification in the official Gazette, make rules generally for carrying out the purposes of this Act, and in particular—

- (a) for the guidance of all or any of the officers discharging any duty under this Act; and
- (b) for the management of, and the maintenance of discipline in, a leper asylum.

17. Notwithstanding anything in any enactment with respect to the purposes to which the funds or other property of a local authority may be applied, any local authority may—

- (a) establish or maintain, or establish and maintain, or contribute towards the cost of the establishment or maintenance or the establishment and maintenance of, a leper asylum either within or without the local limits of such local authority;
- (b) with the previous sanction of the Local Government and subject to such conditions as that Government may prescribe, appropriate any immovable property vested in, or under the control of, such body, as a site for, or for use as, a leper asylum.

18. No suit, prosecution or other legal proceeding shall lie against any officer or person in respect of anything in good faith done or intended to be done under, or in pursuance of, the provisions of this Act.

[19. The Governor-General in Council may, by notification in the Gazette of India, direct that any leper or class of lepers, with respect to whom an order for segregation and medical treatment has been made by a Magistrate having jurisdiction within the territories of any Native Prince or State in India, may be sent to any leper asylum specified in such order; and thereupon the provisions of this Act and of any rules made thereunder shall, with such modifications not affecting the substance as may be reasonable and necessary to adapt them to the subject-matter, apply to any leper sent to a leper asylum in pursuance of such notification as though he had been sent by the order of a Magistrate having jurisdiction under this Act.]

APPENDIX B

PROVINCES IN INDIA, GIVING LEPER ASYLUMS AND NUMBER OF LEPER INMATES.

PUNJAB (2,727 lepers)		U.P. (12,647 lepers)		B. & O. (12,269 lepers)	
Asylum	No. of Inmates	Asylum	No. of Inmates	Asylum	No. of Inmates
Ambala ..	65	Chandag ..	55	Bhagalpur ..	117
Palampur ..	22	Meerut ..	64	Cuttack ..	166
Rawalpindi ..	78	Naini ..	257	Lojardaga ..	11
Subathu ..	98	Rurki ..	42	Muzaffarpur ..	45
T. Taran ..	195	Almora ..	65	Purulia ..	619
Chamba ..	12	Moradabad ..	18	Mourbhanj ..	80
		Saharanpur ..	37	Gaya ..	169
		Agra ..	38	Puri ..	50
		D. Dun ..	23	Deoghar ..	65
		Lucknow ..	28		
		Benares ..	15		
		Budaun ..	15		
		Garhwal ..	25		
		Tehri ..	20		
	470		802		1,322

BENGAL (15,897 lepers)		C.P. (8,025 lepers)		BOMBAY (9,709 lepers)	
Asylum	No. of Inmates	Asylum	No. of Inmates	Asylums	No. of Inmates
Bankura ..	150	Champa ..	405	Belgaum ..	19
Raniganj ..	184	Chandkuri ..	465	Miraj ..	108
Calcutta (Gobra) ..	315	Dhamtari ..	210	Nasik ..	120
		Kothara ..	27	Pui ..	52
		Mungeli ..	111	Poladpur ..	101
		Patpara ..	15	Poona ..	80
		Raipur ..	59	Sholapur ..	53
		Rajnandgaon ..	81	Tarapur ..	19
		Sarangarh ..	?	Vengurla ..	36
				Ahmedabad ..	68
				Karachi ..	49
				Matunga ..	293
				Ratnagiri ..	76
				Trombay ..	17
	649		1,373		1,091

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MADRAS (15,753 lepers)		BURMA (9,765 lepers)		ASSAM (4,464 lepers)	
Asylum	No. of Inmates	Asylum	No. of Inmates	Asylum	No. of Inmates
Calicut ..	113	Mandalay	142	Kangkopki ..	7
Manamadura..	134	Maulmein ..	41	Kohima ..	18
Ramachand- rapuram ..	91	Rangoon ..	128	Sylhet ..	44
Salur ..	92	Mandalay (R.C.) ..	245		
Vizianagram ..	80				
Vadathorasalur	?				
Kodur ..	25				
Madras ..	329				
Mangalore ..	41				
Kumbakonam	9				
Bapatla ..	65				
	979		556		69

The numbers in brackets are the numbers of lepers given, for each Province, in the 1921 Census.

TOTALS :

	Asylums		No. of Inmates	
Punjab	6	..	470	
U.P.	14	..	802	
B. & O.	9	..	1,322	
Bengal	3	..	649	
C.P.	9	..	1,373	
Bombay	14	..	1,091	
Madras	11	..	979	
Burma	4	..	556	
Assam	3	..	69	
Asylums	73	Inmates	7,311	

APPENDIX C

ALL-INDIA CONFERENCE ON THE LEPER PROBLEM

The most representative Leper Conference yet held in India met in Calcutta early in February 1920. It was convened by the Mission to Lepers and was a Conference of experts. The delegates were as follows:—

- 40 Honorary Superintendents and workers in Leper Asylums.
- 6 Medical Missionaries connected with work among lepers.
- 3 Secretaries of the Mission to Lepers.
- 5 Government and Official delegates.

The Government of India appointed Lt.-Col. Sir Leonard Rogers, I.M.S., and Lt.-Col. F. H. G. Hutchinson, I.M.S. (Sanitary Commissioner with the Government of India) as its delegates. The Government of Bengal sent Major N. P. Sinha, I.M.S., and the Government of Bombay Dr. Rodrigues. Many important questions were discussed and the following findings were adopted by the Conference at its closing Session:—

1. That the Conference of Leper Asylum Superintendents now assembled in Calcutta adopt the unanimous findings of the special Medical Sub-Committee, which are as follows:

- (1) That leprosy is contagious, but slowly, with a long incubation period, through the escape of the causative bacillus in the nasal discharges of the majority of cases, which include many early cases having no outwardly visible ulceration, and to a less extent from open sores.
- (2) That the disease is not directly hereditary, children being free from actual infection at birth, but that they are specially susceptible to contagion from an early age, children as a class being more susceptible than adults. These facts necessitate the earliest possible separation of infants and children from infected leper parents.

- (3) That in view of the preceding opinions segregation is the most effective measure for reducing the prevalence of leprosy, and the grave danger to the community of unrestricted association with lepers.
- (4) That the Committee therefore unanimously endorse the Memorandum regarding the amendment of the Indian Lepers Act of 1898 which has been submitted by the Indian Auxiliary of the Mission to Lepers to the Government of India.
- (5) That the Committee recommend that steps be taken to provide facilities for the training of medical assistants in the diagnosis and in the treatment of leprosy to enable the best methods to be more generally used in asylums, and also in hospitals and dispensaries, as the majority of the more amenable earlier cases will for a long time to come be most easily and economically dealt with in the latter institutions. Leper institutions should be provided with facilities for microscopical examinations.
- (6) That the Committee are of the opinion that, in view of the considerable degree of fecundity of lepers, especially of females, and the excessive danger of contagion to the children of lepers, which play a great part in maintaining the prevalence of the disease, the separation of the sexes is desirable as far as possible. Whenever this is not found to be practicable, married lepers should only be allowed to live together on the express understanding that any children born to them shall be separated from their infected parents at the earliest possible age. The Committee also consider that it is especially desirable to separate patients presenting good prospects of recovery under efficient treatment to eliminate the risk of the healthy mate becoming infected while the partner is undergoing treatment.
- (7) That the method of treatment with the salts of fatty acids introduced by Lieutenant-Colonel Sir

INDIA'S LEPERS

Leonard Rogers, I.M.S., has been lately tested by fourteen medical officers and assistants in leper asylums throughout India with most favourable results, 72 per cent. showing marked improvement in spite of the fact that most of the cases were advanced and the period of treatment had been comparatively short. More research is needed, however, further to improve the treatment. In view of the international importance of research in connection with leprosy, carried on in India, an application be made to the International Health Commission for a grant towards this work.

2. That the Conference consider that legislation should be primarily concerned with pauper lepers, as these are the greatest menace to public health.

3. That as far as possible segregation should be of a voluntary character as is now carried out in the asylums of the Mission to Lepers, except as is hereinafter recommended in the case of pauper lepers under the Act.

4. That it is our considered opinion that the present type of Mission Asylums, with sympathetic Christian management, affords the best means of effecting a voluntary segregation of lepers.

5. That we further consider that where the compulsory segregation of large numbers of pauper lepers becomes necessary, this might be brought about by the establishment of suitable settlements for the care of this class of people.

6. That no amendment of the Lepers Act in itself, or the establishment of leper settlements, will be of any real value unless the provisions of the Act are strictly enforced.

7. That in the case of voluntary institutions now notified under the Act, the provision of detention wards is not desirable.

8. That the Conference reaffirm the principle that segregation of the sexes should be maintained in all Mission asylums except under exceptional circumstances, and that the marriage of lepers in Mission asylums is not desirable.

9. That the Conference recommend that great care be

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observed in the selection of sites for new asylums and in the arrangements for water supply and drainage, and that where necessary expert advice should be obtained; also that it is desirable and economical to erect buildings of substantial construction and of an approved type according to local requirements.

10. That in conclusion, it is the opinion of the Conference that the disease of leprosy could be stamped out in India if all lepers were segregated, but, as this does not appear to be practicable at this time, it strongly urges that the first step to be taken in this direction is the segregation of all pauper lepers.

APPENDIX D

THE BRITISH EMPIRE LEPROSY RELIEF ASSOCIATION

Patron : H.R.H. THE PRINCE OF WALES, K.G.

Vice-Presidents :

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS.
THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES.
THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA.
H.E. THE VICEROY OF INDIA.
H.E. THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL OF CANADA.
H.E. THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL OF SOUTH AFRICA.
H.E. THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL OF NEW ZEALAND.

General Committee :

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G.B.E. (*Chairman*).

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SIR LEONARD ROGERS, C.I.E., F.R.S.
ARTHUR WHITWORTH, Esq.

Hon. Treasurer :

SIR FRANK CARTER, C.I.E., C.B.E.

Hon. Medical Secretary :

SIR L. ROGERS, C.I.E., F.R.S.

Secretary :

FRANK OLDRIEVE, Esq.

Office—24, Cavendish Square, London, W.1.

300,000 LEPERS IN THE EMPIRE

Objects of the Association

To stamp out Leprosy in the Empire by working with existing and other agencies in :

Providing the latest curative treatment ;

Housing homeless and destitute lepers ;

Research work ; the collection and publication of information, etc.

POINTS TO BE NOTED

LEPERS ARE NOW BEING CURED.

LEPROSY IS NOT HEREDITARY.

LEPROSY CAN BE STAMPED OUT.

£250,000 NEEDED

£1 will give a leper a chance of recovery.

LEPERS IN THE EMPIRE

The Estimated Number of Lepers in the British Empire is
300,000.

Country.	No. of Lepers.
India	200,000
West African Possessions	50,000
East African Possessions	30,000
South Africa	3,600
Federated Malay States	1,200
West Indies	1,050
Ceylon	600
Mauritius	550
British Guiana	400
Fiji	350
Malta	120
British North Borneo	100
Australia	80
Cyprus	75
United Kingdom	50
Canada	20
New Zealand	3