

May we hope that you will use the influence of your paper to obtain an expression of opinion from the principal leprologists of India as to this matter? Should some of them, as we fervently hope, be willing to join our congress, will you ask them to communicate their intentions to me, as in this moment, and for a little time to come, I shall have this foreign correspondence entirely on my own hands.

ALBERT S. ASHMEAD, M.D.
(University of Paris.)

210 W. 4TH ST., NEW YORK, U. S. A.
4th August 1896.

PROPOSED INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS FOR THE
SUPPRESSION OF LEPROSY.

PARIS, 26th December 1895.

DEAR DR. ASHMEAD.—A few days ago I sent to your address a number of the *Bulletin Medical* of this city containing my last publication on leprosy. To day I send you my little book on *Lèpre à Madère*.

You will see that the prophylaxis of this foul disease occupies my mind very much. However, to come to a decision on the best mode of exterminating the endemic, and to preserve other countries (fully or partially free), we must form an opinion on the aetiology.

Your publications confirm my firm belief that the disease is spreading by direct contact from man to man without any intermediate condition!

I see the great interest which you devote to the study of leprosy, and therefore I should like to submit to you my idea to form an international committee for the suppression of this plague. My wish is to interest all governments concerned (and few only are not concerned), and to convoke a congress in order to have stringent prophylactic measures adopted. These measures are to be carried out by all civilized nations.

I remain, etc.,

J. GOLDSCHMIDT.

[Dr. Goldschmidt spent 26 years in the island of Madeira in charge of the leper hospital of Funchal. The island of Madeira was discovered in 1419. The city of Funchal was soon its prosperous capital. In spite of the purity of the air, and the climate which knows hardly any other season but spring, lepra spread there almost as soon as it became inhabited. The Portuguese discoverers were the first inhabitants. Before the end of the 15th century a leprosy was established there.]

NEW YORK, 9th January 1896.

DEAR DR. GOLDSCHMIDT.—I have sent to Hansen, and to Havelburg of Rio Janeiro, also to the medical dons of Japan, a copy of that part of your letter in which you suggest the convocation of a congress. As far as Japan is concerned, of which I can speak with perfect knowledge, the Government would not take any steps in that direction; for it is an obstinate as well as traditional resolution on the part of the whole Japanese people to ignore and even deny absolutely the existence of leprosy in their country. It is one of the forms which patriotism has taken in those islands. Neither in statistics nor in medical discussions will this tabooed subject ever be mooted. Yet there are (*hinc illud silentium*) 100,000 lepers in the country; in one village, very well known to me, there are 1,300. Dr. Putnam of Colombia, South America, where there are 27,000 lepers, says also that the Government of the republic entirely ignores the question, and he publishes a letter of the governor, declaring that he will have nothing to do with this pathological business. I can assure you that there are many countries (for instance, Japan) where, if the Government interfered by any stringent measure for the suppression of leprosy, there would be simply civil war. Believe me, there is no exaggeration in that.

Very truly yours,
ALBERT S. ASHMEAD.

PARIS, 1st February 1896.

DEAR DR. ASHMEAD.—I am exceedingly obliged for your interesting letter of January 9th, and I have taken good note of it. What you say about Japan and Colombia, South America, is very disheartening, but still I think if I can get the English, French, and American Governments to act jointly in this matter, other governments would follow easily. The United States are much interested in this question—*viz.*, the suppression of leprosy—for, as you have pointed out yourself, the danger exists and may become, from known or hitherto unknown sources, any time a very urgent one.

Will you take it upon yourself to obtain a decision from our Government how far it is willing to join an international

congress which has to discuss and propose measures for the suppression and the prevention of leprosy?

As soon as I am in receipt of your answer I shall follow up the subject with the English Government.

Yours sincerely,
J. GOLDSCHMIDT.

BERGEN, NORWAY, 9th July 1896.

Fra Pleiestiftelsen for Spedalske No. 1.

DEAR DR. Ashmead,—I have forwarded your correspondence with Dr. Goldschmidt to the chief of our medical service, and from him I have received a reply, of which the main contents are the following:—

He thinks that the best place for the meeting would be Bergen, in Norway, where we have the head-quarters of the study of leprosy. Further he wishes to have beforehand certainty that an invitation from Norway to meet in Bergen should be accepted by the most prominent physicians acquainted with leprosy.

Now, I think myself that this should be a good arrangement, as we hardly have anything to learn from foreigners while we are able of giving good information.

No doubt our chief would recommend the sending of a man from Norway, if the congress should meet in another place, but as Norway occupies a prominent place in the treatment of leprosy, I should think it the most convenient place of meeting.

I beg you kindly to give me your opinion on this point so that the matter as soon as possible can be laid before the Norwegian Government.

I remain, Yours truly,
G. ARMAUER HANSEN.

PRICE MEMORIAL FUND.

TO THE EDITOR, "INDIAN MEDICAL GAZETTE."

SIR.—Kindly publish in your widely circulated journal. The following subscriptions have been received towards the "Price Memorial Fund" up to the 18th July 1896:—

	Rs.	A.	P.
Amount paid by Students of the College	267	0	0
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Those who have not sent in their subscriptions as yet are requested to do so as early as possible to Mr. Alf. Spitteler, Hony. Secy., "Price Memorial Fund," Medical College, Madras.

ALF. SPITTELER,
MEDICAL COLLEGE, MADRAS.
20th July 1896.

ALF. SPITTELER,
Hony. Secy.,
"Price Memorial Fund."

SPECIFIC FOR DYSENTERY.

TO THE EDITOR, "INDIAN MEDICAL GAZETTE."

SIR,—A dessert spoonful of peeled garlic should be boiled in a wineglassful of cow's milk, stirred up well together and made into a mass of jelly which should be sweetened with a little sugar and administered to adult patients every two hours, and a teaspoonful to children, till cure is effected; and for chronic cases, a teaspoonful of finely powdered cinnamon bark together with half a teaspoonful of cloves and