

LEAGUE OF NATIONS.

O.C.1188(a).

Geneva, April 9th, 1931.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON TRAFFIC IN OPIUM AND
OTHER DANGEROUS DRUGS.

New Method of Treating the Drug Habit.

Note by the Secretary.

The Secretary has the honour to communicate to the members of the Advisory Committee on Traffic in Opium and Other Dangerous Drugs for their information:

1. A letter dated December 27th, 1930, from Dr. P. Modinos, Chief Medical Officer of the European Hospital at Alexandria (Egypt) and Swedish Delegate to the Quarantine Council, concerning his method of treating drug addicts (see Doc. O.C.1188), and:

2. Two letters, one from Dr. Kwa Tjoan Sioe of the Netherlands Indies dated October 24th, 1930 and the other from Dr. W.D. Reddish of Lexington (United States of America) dated November 6th, 1930, stating their respective opinions of the said treatment.

1. Letter from Dr. P. Modinos.

Translation.

Alexandria (Egypt),

December 12th, 1930.

16 Rue Chérif Pasha.

To the Head of the Social Questions
and Opium Traffic Section,
League of Nations,
Geneva.

Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your letter of November 19th last under No. 12/22270/1396 and the annual reports which you were good enough to send me under separate cover.

I found data of the greatest interest in these reports and propose to use them in my forthcoming work on drug addicts. I am therefore extremely grateful to you for sending me the reports.

May I venture to draw your special attention to the results so far obtained by my method of treating drug addicts? The importance of this question justifies my appeal through you to the League.

I have recently received two letters from my colleagues, one signed by Dr. Kwa Tjoan Sioe of the Netherlands Indies and the other by Dr. Reddish of Lexington (United States of America).

I am sending you copies of these two letters for your information. You will see the results that have been obtained by these two doctors from the application of the treatment which I recommended.

In view of this evidence do you not think it would be expedient to make this treatment better known, so that it may be universally applied?

I am entirely at the League's disposal (if it thinks fit to make use of my services) and would willingly give lectures or scientific courses or draw up memoranda or reports.

I should be grateful if you would be good enough to pass on this letter to the proper quarter.

Thanking you once again,

I am, etc.

(Signed) P. MODINOS.

2. Letters from Dr. Kwa Tjoan Sioe and Dr. W.D. Reddish.

Translation.

Welterreden, October 24th, 1930.

Dr. Medinos,

Alexandria.

My dear colleague,

I am glad to inform you that for more than five months we have been testing your method of treating morphine addicts by the injection of a serum obtained from a blister made according to your instructions which were received through the League of Nations.

In Java and the whole of Indonesia there are thousands of opium smokers. With the assistance of Dr. Tan Kim Hong we have treated more than two hundred cases of opium smoking and some tens of cases of morphine addiction, with striking results. In the case of smokers we found that the persons treated became hypersensitive even to the smell of opium smoke. In one case on the third day after the serum was injected a smoker was no longer able to bear the smell of the smoke, and when he was asked to smoke a pipe he turned sick and giddy and suffered from violent headache.

In one clinic we do away with the pipe at the outset and replace it by a morphine injection. We have already made a statement to the meeting of the Medical Association at Batavia in July last and we shall make another statement next December to the Congress of the Far Eastern Association for Tropical Medicine, which is to be held at Bangkok (Siam).

We hope to be able to send you very shortly the statements we have made on the subject. The object of this letter is to congratulate you and to express my gratitude. Through your communication to the League of Nations you have rendered a great service to the whole world, and Asia will be particularly grateful to you.

I am, etc.

Kwa Tjoan Sioe.

Lexington, Ky.

November 6th, 1930.

Dr. P. Modinos,
Alexandria, Egypte.

Dear Sir,

I beg to acknowledge your kind favor and reprints.

Before they arrived, I had treated seven addicts with Distor serum. The only available information was that you had treated such cases and so I did not know amounts and frequency of doses. There were given daily injections of the yield of the blister up to 6 - 8 C.C. We have continued the daily injections in our twenty cases.

The most striking things about your treatment are the almost complete absence of withdrawal symptoms and the sharp end - point.

I hope to have a reprint to send you soon.

Thanking you again and commending your method for its amazing results,

I beg to remain,

Yours truly,

WDR/R.

W.D. Reddish.