

BOOK REVIEWS

Bryceson, A. and Pfaltzgraff, R. E. *Leprosy*. 2nd ed. Edinburgh: Churchill Livingstone, 1979, 208 pp. Price: US\$10.00.

During the last few years a number of small texts dealing with the diagnosis and management of HD have appeared. Most of these cover the essentials adequately and are relative bargains in an era when the cost of larger medical texts is skyrocketing. *Leprosy*, by Drs. Bryceson and Pfaltzgraff, is the newest of these. It is very current and gives excellent coverage of all aspects of HD in 15 well written chapters. Its chapter on immunology, for example, discusses the topic in greater detail than any other small monograph on HD. The Ridley-Jopling classification is, for the most part, the point of reference throughout, and treatment recommendations follow those of WHO. It would have benefited from some color illustrations, but cost was undoubtedly a factor here, and, in all fairness, the black and white photographs employed are well reproduced and the best I have seen in any similar text. I do have some criticisms, however. It should be emphasized that though progression of the patient's disease on a known intake of 400 mg of dapsone over a six-month period confirms sulfone resistance, response does not exclude the possibility since bacilli resistant at only the 0.0001 percent and possibly even the 0.001 percent level may respond temporarily to full doses of dapsone.

The chapter on immunology amounts to a detailed general review of the topic with, of course, major reference to HD. This is essential only if one assumes that general immunology is not covered elsewhere in a medical student's curriculum. Also, in the same chapter, not everyone would agree that a positive Fernandez response during lepromin testing always indicates previous infection with *Mycobacterium leprae*. The discussion of clofazimine on page 47 should have emphasized the potentially serious nature of the gastrointestinal complaints on this drug—the dose should always be reduced or the drug temporarily discontinued if a severe problem develops.

These criticisms are relatively minor,

however, and are not meant to detract from what overall is an excellent book on HD. It is obviously directed mainly to physicians and medical students. Lower level health personnel unfortunately will find much of it too technical even as a reference text.—R. R. Jacobson (reprinted with permission from *The Star* 39 [1980] 12)

Coulanges, P. and Coulanges, M. *Bibliographie Analytique des Travaux de L'Institut Pasteur de Madagascar—1898–1978*. Supplement to the *Bulletin de la Société de Pathologie Exotique* 72 (1979). 307 pp. (in French)

This exhaustive bibliography lists the publications of the research staff at the Pasteur Institute of Madagascar during the first 80 years of its existence. A total of 1395 references dealing with subjects such as bacteria, rickettsia, viruses, helminths, protozoa, parasitology, hematology, pathology, biochemistry, pharmacology, and entomology are included. Twenty-three references to research in leprosy, covering the period of 1903–1948, are provided, dealing with study of nasal mucosa, blood groups, reactions, identification of the bacillus, and histology. Of special interest is a study of pregnancy among persons with leprosy in 1933 (Girard, G. *Le sort des enfants de lépreux*. *Sud. méd. chirur.* [1933]), which points out that the rate of pregnancies among persons with leprosy is as high as in the general population and claims that infectivity among newly born children may result in several months; on the other hand, removing the nursing children from their mothers results in a higher infant mortality rate.

The work has considerable interest for persons wishing to survey the history and evolution of research at this outstanding research institute.—G. Gordon

Dharmendra. *Leprosy*. Vol. 1. Bombay: Kothari Medical Publishing House, 1978, 732 pp.

The appearance of Volume 1 of *Leprosy*, edited by Dr. Dharmendra, is an event in the world of medical publishing. Let it be

said at the outset that this volume bears little resemblance to the slimmer works that preceded it, valuable though these were. It is an entirely new production, and the editor has called on the collaboration of 31 leprologists and social workers, most of whom have commendably high reputations beyond their native countries. In point of fact, most of the contributors are nationals from India itself or have spent a large part of their working lives in India, whereas only five contribute from their experience outside India.

The first volume then may be regarded as a worthy exposition of leprosy from the land that has the unenviable distinction of having the greatest number of leprosy sufferers. The fact will do much to account for the value of the book and also its Indian "flavor."

As might be expected, the sections on clinical manifestations, diagnosis, and differential diagnosis are well done, excellently descriptive, and authoritative; they present a very good review of the established disease, as seen in India. In the section on classification (pp. 319-351), the details of historic battles fought largely around the Indian claims appear somewhat irrelevant to workers conversant with modern ideas on immunology and host-parasite relationships.

The section on treatment (pp. 355-682) is reasonably up-to-date, but more cognizance could have been taken of recent work on the advantages of administering dapsone in high doses from the beginning of treatment, uninterrupted during episodes of acute exacerbation.

There is an abundance of clinical photographs in this volume, mostly in black and white; their definition and contrast are not always above criticism.

All in all, though, this first volume is a commendable and workmanlike production, a safe guide, and a useful handbook for doctors working in leprosy. Despite its largely Indian origin and emphasis, it should appeal to a larger audience.—S. G. Browne (*from Trop. Dis. Bull.*)

Klingmüller, G. Lepra. In: *Dermatologie im Praxis und Klinik*. Vol. II. Korting, G. W., ed. Stuttgart: Georg Thieme Verlag, 1980, pp. 121-151. (in German)

Following a short introduction, Dr. Klingmüller discusses the following subjects: historical aspects of leprosy, significance of the disease in Germany, classification, the nature of *Mycobacterium leprae*, the problems of culturing the leprosy bacillus, animal transmission, modes of transmission in man, lepromin (this section was written by Dr. Eva Elsler), clinical aspects, pathology, reactions, treatment, and diagnosis.

The text is richly illustrated, including color photos of various clinical manifestations of the disease, histologic characteristics, electronmicrographs of *Mycobacterium leprae*, and submicroscopic relationships between the bacteria and various cells, including nonmyelinated nerve elements. One-hundred-two references are listed.

This chapter on leprosy is an up-to-date review of the subject and includes advances which have been recently made in biomedical research.

The purpose of *Dermatology in Practice and Clinic*, which comprises 4 volumes, is to contribute to the continual education of medical specialists. Klingmüller's "Leprosy" serves this purpose very well.—W. F. Kirchheimer

Nunzi, E., ed. *Quaderni di Cooperazione Sanitaria. (Health Cooperation Papers.)* Bologna: Associazione Italiana "Amici di R. Follereau" Organizzazione per la Cooperazione Sanitaria Internazionale (O.C.S.I.), 1979, 180 pp.

This is the first monograph in what is intended to be a series dealing with topics of practical interest to medical staff in field-work. The monograph is based on a meeting of an *ad hoc* group of leprosy specialists, held in Rome on 9-10 June 1978, dealing with the subject, "Leprosy in Europe." The meeting was organized by the Associazione Nazionale "Amici dei lebbrosi," Bologna, Italy, jointly sponsored by the Ministry of Health, Italy; Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Italy; and the International Federation of Anti-Leprosy Associations (ILEP) with the participation of the World Health Organization.

Following opening addresses by Mr. Piero Cosi, President of the Association Na-

tionale "Amici dei Lebbrosi"—Bologna; Professor C. Vetere, representative of the Italian Ministry of Health; Dr. H. Sansaricq, representative of the World Health Organization; and General Pierre Dr. Richet, representative of the Fondations Internationales Raoul Follereau, the monograph includes scientific papers dealing with the epidemiology of leprosy in Europe as a whole and in individual countries. These epidemiological papers include contributions by Dr. S. G. Browne (Europe as a whole), Dr. R. Garrigue (France), Professor M. F. Lechat (Belgium), Dr. J. Terencio de las Aguas (Spain), Dr. S. G. Browne (Great Britain), Dr. N. Parisi, *et al.* (Greece), Dr. L. M. Irgens (Norway), Professor R. Bertamino (Italy), Dr. D. L. Leiker (The Netherlands), Professor Türkân Saylan (Turkey), Dr. Fernando de Melo Caeiro (Portugal), and Professor K. F. Schaller (Germany). Extensive and informative discussions held after this and other sessions are included. The subject of treatment of leprosy is reviewed by Dr. D. L. Leiker, followed by discussions. Education

and training is presented by Professor K. F. Schaller, followed by discussions. Social rehabilitation is considered in papers by Drs. Lechat, Browne, de Melo Caeiro, Bertamino, Vetere, Terencio de las Aguas, Garrigue, Parisi, Leiker, Irgens, and Saylan for their respective countries. The group then addresses the problem of legislation dealing with leprosy in the various countries of Europe. The monograph concludes with a final summation article, reporting on this International Workshop on Leprosy in Europe.

The majority of the monograph is in English, with many articles in the other two official languages of the publication, French and Italian.

The monograph as a whole provides the reader with an authoritative review of "Leprosy in Europe" and admirably fulfills the stated objective of the series to provide reviews of medical problems of practical interest to busy field medical staff. Dr. Nunzi and his staff are to be commended for undertaking this venture, and future issues are awaited with interest.—RCH