

BOOK REVIEWS

Atlas of Leprosy. Brussels, Belgium: Damien Foundation, 1981. (English, French, tabs with maps) \$20.

This atlas, produced by the Department of Epidemiology, University of Louvain, Brussels, provides information from a variety of sources on the prevalence of leprosy in 95 countries. Maps are given for each country showing the prevalence of the disease in each administrative region and the locations of projects supported by the International Federation of Anti-Leprosy Associations (ILEP).

The relevant statistics for each country (population, number of registered patients, prevalence, and number of patients in ILEP-supported projects) are given in tables. Where available, the numbers of estimated and treated patients are also included. The atlas is updated annually. (The authors admit that the atlas is incomplete and state that they would welcome any additional material that should be incorporated.)—C. A. Brown (*From Trop. Dis. Bull.*)

Kaufmann, A., Mariam, Sister S. G. and Neville, J. *The Social Dimension of Leprosy. Training Manual for Health Workers.* London: International Federation of Anti-Leprosy Associations (ILEP), 1982, 110 pp.

No disease has more social implications than leprosy. Throughout its long history, leprosy has generated more public opprobrium than any illness known to man. Although glimmers of an increased level of acceptance on the part of the public appear

now and then, I am sure that most HD professionals acknowledge that we have a long way to go in coping with the very real problem of leprosy stigma—not only in terms of personal effect upon patients, but upon other factors such as delayed diagnosis, case-finding difficulties, medication compliance, and other epidemiologic considerations.

It is therefore heartening to note that more concrete assistance in meeting this need is now available in the form of a new ILEP publication, *The Social Dimension of Leprosy*. This work, authored by A. Kaufmann, Sister S. G. Mariam, and J. Neville, is composed of four main parts, with each chapter ending with a series of questions to stimulate group discussion and reflection. A particularly valuable contribution is inclusion of 10 case studies, drawn from various parts of the world and designed to illustrate practical implications of HD management from the patient's perspective. This is an excellent use of the case history teaching methodology and hopefully will serve as a stimulus to other efforts of this type. All in all, *The Social Dimension of Leprosy* is an excellent work and an important contribution to a badly neglected area of leprosy planning. It is recommended highly as required reading for anyone seriously engaged in leprosy control work.

A limited number of copies of this manual are available. Requests should be directed to the ILEP Co-ordinating Bureau, 234 Blythe Road, London, England W140HJ.—R. J. O'Connor.