

BOOK REVIEW

Thangaraj, R. H., ed. *A Manual of Leprosy*. New Delhi: The Leprosy Mission, 1983, 3rd ed. 402 pp.

Seven years have passed since the publication of the first edition of this book under the title "Text Book of Leprosy for Students and Para Medical Workers." The second edition of this book under a new title "Manual of Leprosy" was released in the year 1980. This book "Manual of Leprosy" is being used extensively by all categories of leprosy workers including professionals, students of medicine in the medical colleges and in the leprosy training centers. Our knowledge on all aspects of leprosy has considerably increased, necessitating the addition of new material and the discarding of material which is no longer relevant. Many chapters in the third edition have been rewritten. Two new chapters, Dapsone Resistance and Statistics, have been added.

The picture of leprosy has changed tremendously during the past five years, and we have gained considerable knowledge especially in the fields of pathology, immunology, treatment including management of medical and surgical complications and control. The problem of dapsone resistance throughout the world is posing a great threat to the control measures undertaken by both governments and voluntary organizations. The World Health Organization and the governments of various endemic countries have taken serious note of this threat and

are introducing multidrug therapy regimens in a phased manner. We are happy that there is a great awareness among professional medical people and scientists of the dangers of leprosy in countries where this disease is a major public health problem.

The philanthropic and social organizations who provided custodial care of the leprosy patients in the past are now paying more attention to the control of leprosy and getting their workers trained. Many training centers have been established during the last few years throughout India to train doctors and auxiliary workers. More attention is being given in the medical colleges to teach leprosy to students of medicine. I sincerely hope that this book under its new title will help all those mentioned above to gain considerable knowledge of this disease.—
(Adapted from the Editor's Preface)

The modest title "A Manual of Leprosy" is misleading. This is an impressive and comprehensive textbook of 402 pages with a distinguished group of 22 eminent leprologists as contributors. The 29 chapters cover virtually all aspects of the disease. Emphasis is given to leprosy as it appears in India, and practical considerations are stressed. Care has been taken to keep language simple and easily understandable for the non-leprologist. Dr. Thangaraj and his colleagues are to be congratulated for a superb textbook of leprosy which should be of immense practical value.—RCH