

BOOK REVIEWS

Chapman, R. F. *Leonard Wood and Leprosy in The Philippines. The Culion Leper Colony, 1921–1927.* Washington, D.C.: University Press of America, 1982, 219 pp., illus., extensive references plus index. US\$21.75, US\$10.75 (paper).

Emerson once remarked that “properly, there is no History, only Biography.” The long history of leprosy, replete with its own cast of fascinating characters, is certainly testimony to the astuteness of this observation.

A case in point: General Leonard Wood and his contribution to leprosy control in The Philippines during the early 1920s. In itself, Leonard Wood’s life is practically a chronicle of late 19th and early 20th century American history, embodying personalities and events such as Geronimo and the Apache uprisings, the Spanish-American War and Teddy Roosevelt’s Rough Riders, construction of the Panama Canal, conquest of yellow fever by Reed and Gorgas (but actually made possible by Leonard Wood), presidential politics, General Pershing’s role in World War I, early surgical techniques of Harvey Cushing and medical education, Madison Avenue mass media campaign strategies, establishment of military officer training (ROTC), introduction of hand grenades and the use of aircraft for military operations, etc. In addition, the story of Leonard Wood is a story of simple human courage and determination, not only on his part but on the part of people around him—people such as Perry Burgess, Victor Heiser, H. W. Wade, Dorothy Paul Wade, and others.

This biography, written by Ronald Fettes Chapman, is an excellent piece of writing and one that should be on the book shelf of every person working in leprosy. For, in short, the story of Culion—its history, its patients, its staff—is the story of the disease itself; the story of Wood, the story of every person trying to stand up against it. This is a short book (219 pages) but meticulously researched; for example, Chapter 3 contains only 23 pages and has 80 separate footnotes. In addition to a variety of primary research materials, the author cites 45 books and 139 periodical literature references as secondary

sources. However, what is remarkable here is not the obviously scholarly attention to detail and accuracy, but the most interesting way in which the story is told. As noted above, Wood’s life was an incredible amalgamation of public and personal triumphs and tragedies, filled with a myriad of individual instances of compelling human drama. Yet, somehow the author has been able to condense all of this into a coherent and utterly enthralling story; a story as riveting as any fiction writer could imagine.

In short, you as a reader of the INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF LEPROSY—the journal actually founded as a result of the work at Culion—should read this book. In its own way, it is a rationale for all of us to continue to work in leprosy—a sentiment that I daresay would receive the hearty approbation of General Wood.—R. J. O’Connor

Jopling, W. H. *Handbook of Leprosy.* 3rd ed. London: William Heinemann Medical Books, Ltd., 1984, 148 pp. (Soft cover, £7.95).

Dr. Jopling has again created a superb handbook on leprosy. As he points out, there has been much activity in the field of leprosy, especially in research and in our understanding of the disease since the second edition of the handbook in 1978. This new information has been incorporated in this revised third edition. The succinct coverage of the disease in nine relatively brief chapters is masterful. Newer knowledge in immunology, clinical aspects, chemotherapy, bacteriology, and immunotherapy has been interwoven into the traditional fundamentals of the disease. The text retains an eminently practical flavor with sound recommendations regarding management, record keeping, differential diagnosis, and even a glossary of terms. The illustrations are very well done and appropriately chosen. As aptly put by the publishers, Dr. Jopling has “. . . once again succeeded in giving a concise, authoritative and readable account of leprosy, a disease of exceptional interest and worldwide importance.” The book should be of particular interest to leprosy workers, neurologists, dermatologists and medical

students in countries where leprosy is endemic.—RCH

Proceedings of the Workshop on Serological Tests for Detecting Subclinical Infection in Leprosy, May 18–20, 1983, Tokyo, Japan. Tokyo: Sasakawa Memorial Health Foundation, 1983, 99 pp.

The serodiagnosis of leprosy is still a big problem in leprology since the discovery of complement-fixation reaction and its application to the diagnosis of both syphilis and leprosy in the beginning of this century. Although many investigators have tried serological tests for leprosy, none of them has succeeded in developing a practically available serological test for the diagnosis of leprosy. Recent advances in this research field have been brought by introducing new techniques such as radioimmunoassay, immunofluorescence and enzyme-linked immunosolvent assay (ELISA). However, these trials are still in the stage of investigation and many things must be done to put the test to practical use. The first claim for that purpose should be based on the accumulation of various experiences in different countries and on scientific analyses of the results obtained.

Fortunately, the fluorescent leprosy antibody absorption (FLA-ABS) test is being tried for the diagnosis of leprosy and subclinical leprosy infection in several countries in Asia and the ELISA tests are ready to use for the same purpose. Therefore, it

was a good opportunity to hold the Workshop on Serological Tests for Detecting Subclinical Infection in Leprosy with the objectives:

- 1) to present the findings each scientist has accumulated,
- 2) to discuss the technical problems experienced through the tests in each laboratory,
- 3) to demonstrate and to discuss the techniques of FLA-ABS and ELISA tests, and
- 4) to plan future strategies and collaborative studies.

The above idea was kindly accepted by Prof. Morizo Ishidate, Chairman of the Board of Directors, Sasakawa Memorial Health Foundation, who promised to bear all of the expenses for holding the Workshop in Tokyo, for inviting participants and for publishing the proceedings of the Workshop. Owing to this financial support from the Foundation, we could hold the Workshop successfully at the Sasakawa Hall and at the National Institute for Leprosy Research in Tokyo, on May 18–20, 1983. All of the papers presented at the Sasakawa Hall and a report of demonstrating the FLA-ABS and ELISA tests at the National Institute for Leprosy Research are included in these proceedings. I would be very happy if this booklet is useful for understanding present knowledge on serodiagnostic tests for leprosy.—(From the Foreword by M. Abe)