

BOOK REVIEWS

Andersen, J. G. and Brandsma, J. W. *Management of Paralytic Deformities in Leprosy*. Addis Ababa, Ethiopia: All Africa Leprosy and Rehabilitation Training Center (ALERT), 109 pp., softbound. US\$10.00. [Available from: Department of Training, ALERT, P.O. Box 165, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.]

This is not a textbook of reconstructive surgery, not even within the limited field of leprosy surgery. Our aim has been to produce an introduction to reconstructive surgery as it applies to the sequels of peripheral nerve motor damage in leprosy. Purely plastic surgical procedures and the whole field of "septic" surgery have been left out. The primary target groups are the trainee surgeons and physiotherapists. Far too often trainees arrive without any deeper experiences in dynamic repair of peripheral paralyses. They are frequently discouraged by the bewildering array of indications, contraindications, strange techniques and even stranger jargon. We hope to overcome this early frustration, and also to encourage a close cooperation between these workers, so essential to the successful rehabilitation of our patients.

Both surgery and physiotherapy are essentially "master-pupil" subjects, that should not be learnt from a textbook alone. We have concentrated on the description of the basic principles underlying our work. We strongly recommend every trainee to write his/her own "cook book" and to have it vetted by the teacher. Dogmatic statements and deliberate oversimplifications are necessary in a treatise of this kind. For this we make no excuses. Comments and criticisms are welcome.—(From the Introduction)

Fritschi, E. P. *Surgical Reconstruction and Rehabilitation in Leprosy*. 2nd ed. New Delhi: The Leprosy Mission, 1984. 320 pp. + index, softbound. [Available from: The Leprosy Mission, New Delhi; The Leprosy Mission International, London, or American Leprosy Missions, U.S.A.]

It is about 12 years since I wrote the fore-

word for the first edition of this book. Since that time other books on the same subject have become available, some are larger and more expensive, but none have the broad scope of this one and none are as solidly based on extensive personal experience in every aspect of surgery and rehabilitation in leprosy.

Dr. Fritschi has worked for many years on the staff of The Leprosy Mission and the American Leprosy Missions in hospitals in India and Indonesia, and then as Chief of Surgery and Rehabilitation at ALERT (All Africa Leprosy and Rehabilitation Training Center) in Ethiopia. Now he is back again as Director of the Schieffelin Leprosy Research and Training Center, Karigiri, India, where he is also consultant in surgery.

There are parts of this book which will be helpful to any physician or paramedical worker who deals with leprosy patients. In particular the section on ulceration of the feet should be read by everybody in leprosy control programs.

Reconstructive surgery, however, is not for everybody. This book should be a help to those who are already trained in surgery but who have not yet treated leprosy patients. It will make clear the need to be part of a team, to consult with a leprologist, and to utilize the help of therapists at every stage of preparation, postoperative re-education and conservative management of cases.

I hope this book will be widely used. It should be the constant companion of every young surgeon in the field, and be within easy reach of even the most experienced.—(From the Foreword to Second Edition by Dr. Paul W. Brand)

Gugelyk, T. and Bloombaum, M. *Ma'i Ho'oka'awale—the Separating Sickness*. Honolulu: University of Hawaii Foundation and the Ma'i Ho'oka'awale Foundation, 1979, 121 pp., softbound. US\$9.00. [Available from: Order Department, University of Hawaii Press, 2840 Kolowalu Street, Honolulu, Hawaii 96822, U.S.A.]

This is a people's narrative—a biographical recollection, retrospective, and contem-

plative, personal, painful, and at times angry—about what it means to be a leprosy patient in Hawaii in the early 1900s and today. But a people's history depends on the personal oral recollection of an experience. Accuracy is the extent of the genuineness of an experience. Here, documentation is individual perception, footnoted and punctuated by the accuracy of one fact—the experience of having been diagnosed and confined as one with the *Ma'i Hookaa-wale*—The Separating Sickness (Leprosy).

Perception of one's past influences perception of one's present and future. Since Kalaupapa people have not had an easy life ("we came up the hard way"), remembrances of difficulties endured makes them careful. Shy and weary of strangers, skeptical of administrative intents, policies and politicians, they wish one thing above all—a secure home at Kalaupapa. They also wish to be left alone—by photographers, tourists, and the other curious, including writers such as myself. "It's hell answering your questions. We try to duck people like you!"

Yet social scientists and journalists are a curious and perseverant breed. They always investigate the lives of minority groups, be they minorities like Blacks or Chicanos, or leprosy patients. I am interested in the latter. Leprosy patients voluntarily confined, and for the most part isolated, on a little peninsula on the Island of Molokai, in Hawaii. The peninsula is called Kalawao, and their "hometown" is Kalaupapa. Leprosy patients have been sent to Kalaupapa for 103 years, from 1866 to 1969. They were sent there involuntarily—against their will—as a public health measure to combat the spread of the leprosy bacillus, and that is where Father Damien served the patients from 1873 to 1889 and brought worldwide attention to the little community. Involuntary confinement lasted in Hawaii until almost 1970, but similar confinement of leprosy patients occurred throughout the world. Before the innovation of sulfone drug therapy in the 1940s, millions of persons were confined or imprisoned. In Hawaii, many thousands were affected. Kalaupapa is filled with the graves of those confined there in the past, and this book contains some of the stories of the 128 patients still remaining at Kalaupapa. Now they remain there by choice. They talk about their feel-

ings and what it was like to be imprisoned at Kalaupapa. Why do they elect to remain in the community since they are now free to leave and reside elsewhere? Are they bitter about their lives, angry at society or the government about the treatment they have received historically and in the present? These are personal narratives, maybe oral histories, individual reflections on lives lived in confinement.—(From the Preface)

Leprosy in Africans. A Pictorial Documentation Based on Photographs Selected and Annotated by W. K. Jacyk, M.D. Wurzburg, West Germany: German Leprosy Relief Association (DAHW), 1983, 52 pp. [Copies may be obtained from DAHW, P.O. Box 348, 8700 Wurzburg 11, West Germany.]

The booklet contains 52 illustrations of leprosy patients and of other skin conditions which might be confused with leprosy. There is a good spread of the different types of disease represented, so that one can get a reasonable picture of the appearance of skin lesions. The photographs are excellently reproduced. In a few, there is very slight loss of definition, but it is so slight that it does not detract from their value. In some instances the pictures could have been made a bit larger, since much of the page area is blank. Some pictures are taken with background details in focus or near focus, which is a bit distracting.

There are 35 pictures of the various types of Hansen's disease across the spectrum. There are five pictures of patients in reaction. It is deficient on type II reaction since there is only one photograph of erythema nodosum leprosum (ENL). There is a representative spread of skin conditions, which may be confused with Hansen's disease, in that there are 12 photographs.

I did not see any typographical errors. However, there is one major error. Two of the captions are misplaced—those of photograph #16 and #35 are transposed, which is a bit confusing.

The descriptions included in the captions are brief and not very consistent in the information provided.

This is an excellent little booklet, small enough that it should be possible to produce at a very reasonable price, making it avail-

able on a wide basis. The German Leprosy Relief Association and Dr. Jacyk are to be complimented on this production.—R. E. Pfaltzgraff

Saha, Kunal. *An Overview of Immunological Aspects of Human Leprosy.* Erwin Stindl Memorial Oration—1984. Calcutta: Greater Calcutta Leprosy Treatment & Health Education Scheme, 1984, 30 pp. (99 references). Price: US\$1.00.

This 30-page monograph by Professor Saha is the text of the 1984 Erwin Stindl Memorial Oration delivered on 30 January 1984 in Calcutta. The publication was sponsored by the German Leprosy Relief Association and proceeds of sales of the booklet go to the Greater Calcutta Leprosy Treatment and Health Education Scheme.

Professor Saha has given a detailed overview of the present situation in research on the immunology of leprosy. The first section of the monograph deals with the immune alterations in a) antibody-mediated immunity, b) the complement system, c) cell-mediated immunity, and d) phagocytic function in lepromatous leprosy patients. A second section deals with a review of clinical immunology or the application of immunologic findings for the benefit of leprosy patients. This section deals with antigenic analysis of *M. leprae*, diagnosis of subclinical infections, immunoprophylaxis, and passive immunotherapy. Much of the work described understandably comes from Professor Saha's very productive laboratory. Both the text and the extensive bibliography

(99 references) provide a useful current perspective on the progress which has been made in recent years in our understanding of the immunology of leprosy.—RCH

Talhari, S. and Neves, R. G. *Hansenologia.* Manaus, Brazil: Fundo Comunitario das Industrias da Zona Franca de Manaus (FUNCOMIZ), 1984, 108 pp., illus., soft-bound (in Portuguese). US\$12.00. [Contact: Prof. S. Talhari, Clinica de Dermatologia Tropical, Av. Japura, 572, 69.000 Manaus-Am-Brasil.]

Hansenologia is a profusely illustrated, 108-page textbook on Hansen's disease. Together with eight eminent Brazilian contributors, Professors Talhari and Neves have written a complete basic textbook in Portuguese dealing with virtually all aspects of the disease. Emphasis is placed on the disease as it occurs in Brazil. The chapter on cutaneous manifestations and differential diagnosis is particularly well done. The differential diagnostic cases are intermingled with the descriptions of the various types of Hansen's disease and are quite well illustrated, with many of the plates being in color. The chapter on neural manifestations also includes intermingled differential diagnostic cases with excellent illustrations. The chapter on treatment is up to date and presents clear advice for the management of all types of cases. Professors Talhari and Neves and their collaborators are to be congratulated on an excellent textbook for general practitioners and students of medicine.—RCH