

BOOK REVIEWS

Carayon, A. in collaboration with J. Van Droogenbroeck, J. Languillon, C. Hirzel, G. Discamps, P. Ravisse, J. J. Salan, and G. Roux. *Les Nevrites Lepreuses. [Leprous Neuritis.]* Paris: Masson, 1985, 232 pp. Hardcover, 482 references, in French with English conclusions sections.

Professor Carayon and his colleagues have produced an impressive textbook dealing with the neuritis of leprosy. The book is divided into five chapters. The first chapter is a general description of leprosy neuritis aimed at leprologists and describing changes in the ulnar, median, radial, and external popliteal nerves. The second chapter focuses on the neuritis involving the posterior tibial nerve and its relationship to plantar ulcers. The third chapter is a general discussion of the pathophysiology of leprosy neuritis. The fourth chapter outlines techniques and indications for peripheral nerve surgery in the management of leprosy neuritis, and is intended for surgeons specializing in leprosy rehabilitation or surgeons interested in the peripheral nervous system. The fifth and final chapter deals with the evolution of palliative surgery for motor paralysis, plastic surgery, and surgery of the hands and feet in leprosy.

The authors feel that many basic concepts in the clinico-pathology of leprosy, in its pathophysiology, in the medical therapy of the disease, and in the medical-surgical concepts of the disease have changed over the years and that indications for treatment of the disease have become more precise. The ultimate aim of the book is to encourage better treatment of leprosy neuritis in order to avoid the stigma of leprosy, insensitivity and paralysis, which currently affects some 40% of leprosy patients or six million individuals in the world. It is hoped that better treatment of leprosy neuritis will provide newer generations with a different future from the dreadful fate of past generations.—(*Adapted from English General Conclusions*)

Epidemiology of Leprosy in Relation to Control: Report of a WHO Study Group. Tech. Report Ser. 716. Geneva: World Health Organization, 1985.

The leprosy control program in Cuba is of particular interest because of its record of very efficient case detection and treatment. During the past 5 years, almost all registered smear-positive leprosy patients were treated with a monthly dose of rifampin for 6 months, while smear-negative patients received rifampin for 3 months. Rifampin treatment was followed by a consolidation phase of treatment with acedapson. Despite the thoroughness of this program, there is, as yet, no evidence of a decline in the number of newly detected cases of leprosy in Cuba.—(*From the Report*)

Girdhar, B. K. *Recent Ideas and "Progress in the Treatment" of Leprosy. Erwin Stindl Memorial Oration—1985.* Calcutta: Greater Calcutta Leprosy Treatment & Health Education Scheme, 1985, 40 pp. Softbound, US\$3, 161 references.

At the moment, the only means to control leprosy is chemotherapy. For many years dapsone was the only successful drug in the treatment of leprosy, but currently many patients have developed resistance to dapsone. The only answer is the application of combined therapy.

This booklet now gives a detailed view of the drugs presently used in the treatment of leprosy. The effects of the drugs are described in detail, and so this is a valuable manual for all experts working in the field of leprosy. We express our most cordial thanks to B. K. Girdhar, M.D., of Central JALMA Institute for Leprosy, Agra, for this excellent presentation.

We are very glad that this booklet is dedicated to the memory of the late Mr. Erwin Stindl who, for 22 years as treasurer of the Germany Leprosy Relief Association, was

always an engaged observer of the progress in the treatment of leprosy. He always lent his ear to any new developments in chemotherapy and supported any effort to its improvement so that a possibility for really eradicating this dreadful disease may be found.—(From the Foreword by Hermann Kober)

Ratledge, C. and Stanford, J., eds. *The Biology of the Mycobacteria. Vol. 2. Immunological and Environmental Aspects.* London: Academic Press, 1983, 554 pp., US\$99.

As the editors state, "... perhaps a title 'Natural History' would be better than 'Biology,' for in it is given an account of the ecology of mycobacteria, the effect they have on their surroundings, and how these surroundings affect them."

Part I covers immunological aspects with chapters devoted to adjuvants, antigens, histopathological spectrum, animal models and immune mechanisms, the mononuclear phagocyte and concludes with an integrated view of the immunology of the mycobacterioses in guinea pigs, mice and men. A number of these chapters contain excellent tables, which are highly effective in summarizing the results obtained by various groups working in a specific area. Taken together, these chapters would provide an excellent foundation for someone entering the area of mycobacterial immunology. In addition, the chapter on animal models devotes considerable space to the growth, enumeration, preservation and viability assessment of mycobacteria, thus extending its relevance to mycobacteriologists. The rapid advances being made in the understanding of immune responses to mycobacteria will cause some chapters to become dated rather quickly and will hopefully provide incentive for a second edition in the not too distant future.

Part II is composed of three chapters dealing with mycobacterial ecology. The coverage ranges from the ecology of free-living mycobacteria in soil and water, to the naturally occurring mycobacterioses of animals, to the importance of immunologically effective contact with environmental mycobacteria. The two former chapters leave one with an impressive picture of the ubiqu-

itous distribution of these organisms in nature and the ability of some species to survive and/or thrive in markedly diverse environments. The latter is one of the most interesting chapters in the book, and serves as a point of convergence for the themes discussed in Parts I and II. These chapters may indeed be the most useful to those working in areas other than environmental mycobacteriology since they facilitate a broader vision of the existence and activities of the mycobacteria. This "big picture" may provide clues to problems which become obscured through a progressively narrower field of vision, which often develops during the dissection of a specific problem.

Part III consists of a single chapter concerned with some diseases of possible mycobacterial etiology. Evidence and hypotheses concerning the involvement of mycobacteria in sarcoidosis, Crohn's disease, and ulcerative colitis are presented. It seems fitting that this chapter is placed at the conclusion of Volume 2, since it underscores the vast amount of work yet to be done if we are to more fully comprehend the role of the mycobacteria in health and disease.

This multi-authored book is similar to Volume 1 in format, and with regard to the in-depth coverage of the topics, but differs in that in "... most of the aspects of mycobacteria considered in Volume 1, that which is 'known' about them is likely to be true, and that which is not known may be discovered, whereas in this volume, that which is 'thought' about them may be fifty percent or more wrong, and tomorrow's views may be diametrically opposed to those of today."—Scott G. Franzblau

Teaching and Learning in Leprosy. Leprosy Documentation Service (INFOLEP), Amsterdam. Printed and distributed by Deutsches Aussatzigen Hilfswerk (DAHW), Würzburg, 1984, 312 pp. + indices, address list, annexes in loose-leaf binder.

This publication is a selected compilation of print educational material on leprosy, prepared and published on behalf of the ILEP Steering Committee on Teaching/Learning Materials. Following several introductory sections on organization and de-

sign, individual listings are categorized within 28 language groupings. Each entry is described in terms of type of material, language, other language, copies (available from and price per copy), subject headings, and annotation. Entries are numbered sequentially, with a total of 311 listings. A Subject Index, Name Index, List of Addresses, and Annexes (providing descriptive information about various publishers of leprosy print information) conclude the volume. The publication itself is in a loose-leaf format (two-ring, silk-screened binder), conveniently subdivided with plastic section/language identifiers. Revisions of the bibliography are planned "at regular intervals."

This publication represents an important contribution to leprosy education and training, particularly in terms of providing an organized mechanism for obtaining resource information. Currently, a relatively large amount of print information is available on leprosy management, much of which is quite good. The problem has been chiefly one of inadequate information concerning availability of such material. Thanks to ILEP, ILA, INFOLEP, DAHW, NSL, and other sponsors of *Teaching and Learning in Leprosy*, this problem—to a large extent—has now been resolved.—Richard J. O'Connor