

## BOOK REVIEWS

**Harboe, Morten, ed.** *Teaching of Leprosy. Proceedings of a Symposium Held on the Occasion of the 20th Annual General Meeting of the All Africa Leprosy and Rehabilitation Training Centre (ALERT).* Leprosy Review 50 Suppl. 1 (1986), 94 pp., softbound.

This supplement contains the papers presented during a Symposium on the Teaching of Leprosy held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 19 March 1986, on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the All Africa Leprosy and Rehabilitation Training Centre (ALERT).

The purpose of this Symposium was to show how the teaching of leprosy has been developed according to a multidisciplinary approach at ALERT, also taking the opportunity to present essential aspects of the history of this institution.

The paper of Professor Paul Brand provides a unique documentation of the initial events and the concepts behind the foundation of ALERT. The paper by Dr. Widad Kidane Mariam describes the further development of the institution, and the Chairman of its Board, Dr. Yayehyirad Kitaw comments in his introduction on major concepts and principles involved in this development. The relationship between ALERT and its foreign sponsors is described by Herr Kober, the obvious candidate for this presentation due to his extensive work with ALERT over many years and his function as ILEP coordinator for Ethiopia.

The Kellersberger Memorial Lecture is a distinct feature of the relationship between ALERT and the Ethiopian Medical Community. We appreciate the contribution of Dr. Azeb Tamrat from the Ethiopian Medical Association in this regard giving credit to Dr. Kellersberger and American Leprosy Missions making this important series of lectures better known internationally.

The papers on training are quite varied, as they should be, since training obviously concerns many different aspects of leprosy in its regular execution at ALERT. Dr. W. Felton Ross comments on the dual need for knowledge and development of attitudes to

work, rightly emphasizing the latter. The papers on training also illustrate the essential contribution of the hospital to training, the tremendous influence of the introduction of the WHO multidrug therapy regimens at a grand scale at ALERT on training, and the interaction between ALERT and the Armauer Hansen Research Institute on the same compound. In my view, the close collaboration and mutual interdependence of these two institutions make this compound unique in the leprosy field.

The final paper concentrates on prospects for the future of ALERT in the African context as seen by an African. We appreciate greatly that Gizaw Tsehai, the Ethiopian Minister of Health, presented this view.—(From the Preface by M. Harboe)

**Huikeshoven, Han.** *A Spot Test for Dapsone in Urine.* Amsterdam: Netherlands Leprosy Relief Association, n.d. Softbound, 20 pp., illustrated.

This is an excellent simple guide to the technique of testing for dapsone in the urine. The tests are described in simple language and abundantly and well illustrated by Eric Koster. A guide to interpreting the results is included, and the booklet concludes with guidance for the use of the results of the urine tests in health education to improve compliance with dapsone. The booklet should prove extremely valuable in leprosy control work in all parts of the work.—RCH

[The booklet is available free of charge from ILEP members, in particular TLM, London, and DAHW, Germany, as distributing agencies.]

*Proceedings of the Inauguration of China Leprosy Association, China Leprosy Foundation, China Leprosy Control and Research Centre and the First International Leprosy Symposium in China.* Tokyo: Sasakawa Memorial Health Foundation, 1986, 170 pp., softbound.

For realization of the great goal of basically eradicating leprosy from China at the end of this century, the First International

Leprosy Symposium in China was held in Guangzhou on 26–28 November 1985 under the sponsorship of the Ministry of Public Health of the People's Republic of China. The meeting was attended by a total of 365 delegates, of which 107 are world-known leprologists from 26 countries; the rest are Chinese leprologists and leprosy workers from various provinces, autonomous regions and direct municipalities. Altogether, 118 articles and academic reports are presented.

Discussions and exchanges of experiences about the work of leprosy control and research in China and in the world were carried out extensively between the Chinese and foreign leprologists and experts. The achievements in leprosy control and research work in China for a period of 35 years have been evaluated highly by foreign delegates, who stated that from the control programs and organizational measures and effective results obtained in China, they are of the opinion that a hopeful perspective in wiping out leprosy from China may be re-

alized. Some of them even expressed expectations that China may set an example for the Third World to follow as a pattern in the eradication of leprosy. At the same time, Chinese leprosy workers have also learned some of the advanced experiences of other countries.

It is to be acknowledged that this meeting was quite successful. It has obtained the expected aims. It has increased the friendship and understanding between the Chinese and foreign leprologists. It has enhanced international cooperation and strengthened our confidence and determination in the fight against leprosy. A friendly cooperative atmosphere has manifested itself from the beginning to the end.

Finally, let us promote an international collaboration and go forward hand in hand in the fight against leprosy and wipe out this scourge from the earth for the benefit of mankind.—(*From the Postscript by Dr. Ma Haide*)