

BOOK REVIEWS

Devasundaram, B. and Chacko, C. J. G., eds. *Laboratory Aspects of Leprosy; A Technical Manual for Smear Personnel*. Karigiri, India: Schieffelin Leprosy Research & Training Centre, 1987, 49 pp., softbound.

As indicated in the accompanying letter from Professor Chacko, this "is a step-by-step instruction manual, written primarily for technicians and paramedical workers in developing countries where leprosy is endemic. The contents of the book have arisen out of interactions we have had with technicians and trainees, who face many problems in control programs without adequate guidance and support. The book has been written in simple English (the vocabulary is Grade I in Chapters 1 and 2) since the majority of our target audience have difficulty in comprehending English. In addition, a page-by-page glossary is provided at the end of the book.

"Also, general aspects of laboratory work such as cleaning of slides, decontamination and quality control have been covered. The latter chapters of the book are expected to serve the needs of supervisors and medical officers running control programs in endemic areas."

The manual is exceptionally complete and is obviously written by individuals who have vast experience in supervising and teaching skin-smear technicians. This manual should go far in creating more reliable skin-smear laboratories which play a fundamental role in leprosy control efforts throughout the world.—RCH

Grange, J. M. *Mycobacteria and Human Disease*. London: Edward Arnold (Publishers) Ltd., 1988, hardback, 177 pp. including index, black and white illustrations, £16.50.

"The genus *Mycobacterium*, despite great advances in medical science, continues to be a major cause of misery and suffering throughout the world. Leprosy and tuberculosis attack the human race with undiminished vigor while several other species of mycobacteria are emerging as important causes of life-threatening disease.

"It was originally envisaged that this book should be a revised version of my previous work *Mycobacterial Diseases*, published by Edward Arnold in 1980. In practice, there have been so many major developments in the subject over the last seven years that the text has been almost entirely rewritten. In particular, the drug treatment of leprosy, tuberculosis and other mycobacterial disease has become much more rational and considerable advances have been made in immunology, facilitated by the introduction of monoclonal antibodies, cell cloning techniques and modern 'genetic engineering' procedures. In addition, there have been advances in the ecology, biochemistry, epidemiology and classification of the mycobacteria. Sadly, though, there is an increasing gap between the 'high-tech' researchers and those responsible for the basic care of the victims of mycobacterial disease. I hope this book will help to bridge that gap.

"This monograph provides a review of the mycobacteria themselves, their place in the environment, the way in which they interact with the living host, the nature of the diseases they cause and the available means of diagnosing, preventing and curing such disease. It is intended for both undergraduate and postgraduate students seeking a general account of the mycobacteria and the diseases they cause, for the clinician wishing to understand the underlying mechanisms of the pathogenesis of the diseases, for the epidemiologist and health care administrator wishing to appreciate the nature and magnitude of the public health problems posed by the diseases, and for the microbiologist providing a clinical service. The potential researcher will find an account of the exciting developments in the science of mycobacteriology and, more importantly, will become aware of the many gaps in our present-day knowledge!"—Author's Preface

Orfanos, C. E., Stadler, R. and Gollnick, H., eds. with the collaboration of the German Committee for Proceedings. *Dermatology in Five Continents; Proceedings of the XVII World Congress of Dermatology, Berlin, May 24–29, 1987*. Berlin: Spring-

er-Verlag, 1988, hardbound 1266 pp., includes author and subject index, 284 figures.

This book provides a unique and broad coverage of the accomplishments in worldwide dermatology in the years between 1982 and 1987. In separate chapters—Special Lectures, Seminars, Advances in Derma-

tology, Symposia, Workshops, Courses and Posters—it integrates the scientific program of the XVII World Congress of Dermatology held in Berlin (West), 24–29 May 1987. More than one thousand authors have presented their results by this occasion and several hundred have contributed to this comprehensive volume of today's dermatology.—*(From back cover)*