

# Reviews of Books and Articles of Current Medical Interest

*International Journal of Leprosy*, Vol. 1, No. 1.

We are glad to bring to the attention of our readers the International Journal of Leprosy. This number contains many very valuable articles, and the standard set up augurs well for the future. Space forbids our attention being given to all the contributions, and therefore, one or two only can be cited.

Dr. Lampe contributes an article on the "Fate of Children Born of Leprous Parents." In the discussion at the close of this article, Dr. Lampe points out the necessity not only for the separation of children at birth, but strict attention should be paid to their subsequent surroundings. It is this and other work of Dr. Lampe's that has brought evidence of the fact that leprosy frequently develops in childhood or early adolescence, hence the necessity for the strict supervision stressed in this article.

Dr. John Lowe contributes an article on leprosy in Hyderabad, and this is of extreme interest, as he emphasises the following important facts:—

- (1) That children are susceptible to leprosy infection.
- (2) That adults are usually immune to leprosy.
- (3) That the infection is usually contracted in childhood.
- (4) That the infection usually shows itself clinically by the age of 20.
- (5) That in some cases in which the disease does not show itself till later in life, the infection was probably contracted in childhood and there has been an unusually long latent period.

Dr. Hayashi has an article which was reprinted in *LEPROSY REVIEW*, Vol. IV, No. 4.

The interesting work of Soule and McKinley, on the "Cultivation of *B. Lepreæ* with Experimental Lesions in Monkeys," is reprinted from the

*American Journal of Tropical Medicine.* Temporary lesions were produced in monkeys by the inoculation of suspensions of ground-up leprosy nodules, but as in the case of other workers, there was no evidence of general spread. The cultural work is based on the maintenance of certain concentrations of oxygen and carbon di-oxide. A growth of acid-fast bacilli was obtained, which resulted in the experimental production of granulomalocis lesions suggestive of early leprosy.

The work has been extended recently by an attempt to produce subcultures on chick embryo tissue (*Proc. Soc. Exp. Biol. Med.*, Vol 30, No. 5, pp. 659-661). The whole position must be considered at present to be non-proven, and we shall await the results of the work, which is being done in Calcutta along these lines, with great interest.

We would emphasise the importance of this Journal to leprosy workers and urge such to join the International Leprosy Association. Applications should be sent to 29 Dorset Square.

*Preliminary Report on Certain Dyes in Leprosy.* GORDON A. RYRIE.

This article has caused considerable interest among leprosy workers, as it holds out considerable hope of a new and more effective remedy for leprosy. The treatment is by the intravenous injection of certain aniline dyes. The most hopeful of these were found to be Brilliant Green in a 1 per cent. solution, and Trypan Blue in a 2 per cent. solution, in doses as big as 20 cc.s. The result appears to be striking, but on analysis we find very few cases have so far been treated by these methods, and when one reads that nine cases have become bacteriologically negative, one is encouraged, but one learns that among these "five have shown very definite retrogression of lesions." This seems to indicate that a bacteriological examination was the main criterion, and herein lies a fallacy, for it is sometimes very easy to produce an apparent improvement in this direction which, unfortunately, is seldom permanent. In view of a recent personal communication, in which Dr. Ryrie says the aniline dyes have "decided limitations," it would be well to withhold conclusions with regard to this apparent new and effective treatment.

It remains to be said that Dr. Ryrie warns workers of the care needed in administration of these dyes, and intravenous medication cannot be lightly undertaken. He himself had everything meticulously prepared, and all the apparatus for the combating of collapse, ready.

*Manson's Tropical Diseases.* PHILIP MANSON-BAHR. Ninth edition. Cassell & Co., Ltd. 31/6.

We are glad to bring to the notice of workers in the leprosy field this very valuable and classic book on tropical medicine. Leprosy is a disease which cannot be treated effectively without a knowledge of other tropical conditions, and we know no work which presents Tropical Medicine so clearly and concisely as Manson's.

We are naturally particularly interested in the leprosy section. We regret that this section is not written altogether from the modern standpoint. The description of the disease is the description of the more advanced case, and the treatment has not been brought thoroughly up-to-date. We trust that these points will be noted in the preparation of future editions, so that they may give the student and practitioner a wider grasp of the protean nature of the disease.

We unhesitatingly state that this book should be on the shelf of all those who directly or indirectly are connected with the treatment of tropical complaints in the course of their leprosy work. R.G.C.