

Reviews.

"INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF LEPROSY." Vol. 1, No. 2. April, 1933.

This number is one of extreme interest to leprosy workers, and they are urged to join the International Leprosy Association, in order that the excellent material which is contained in this quarterly publication, may be made available to them. We feel that no one who wishes to take a serious interest in leprosy should hesitate to join this Association.

The April number of the Journal contains an excellent article on "Leprous Nerve Lesions," by Muir and Chatterjee, in which they describe the early neural lesions and discuss the nature of the so-called tuberculoid type (leproid). Their conclusions are of the utmost interest, the two main ones being:—

(1) That the tuberculoid lesion is essentially a neural lesion, the infection entering by way of the nerve terminals and "spreading collaterally through the cutaneous and subcutaneous communications, and at the same time finding its way up into the main nerves."

(2) That such lesions are produced by a hitherto undiscovered neurophilic virus or form of the M.B. lepræ, and that this "living germ or virus" has a predilection for the connective tissue of peripheral nerves, and "under certain circumstances generally associated with lowering of the general health of the patient, it can be transformed into the well-known acid-fast rod of Hansen."

It is impossible to summarise the article for, apart from the exigencies of space, it can best be appreciated by reading it in full.

This article is followed by one on the "Granular Forms of the Leprosy Bacillus," by W. H. Hoffman, in which he states that the granular forms may be of extreme importance, and follows up the suggestion in the previous article that the bacillus may pass into the non-acid fast form and possibly be a filter passer.

One suggestion that is made, but is not followed up, is the possibility of the leprosy bacillus being a cellular parasite. We feel that many aspects of leprosy can only be explained by such a phenomenon, and that the possible parasitic nature of the disease needs investigating.

It is impossible to summarise Dr. Cole's most excellent review on the "Chemistry of Leprosy Drugs." This is the first series of such reviews, and others are promised on "Treatment, Epidemiology and Prophylaxis" as they are made available. These articles are followed by a short description of "Leprosy in Finland and Esthonia and Latvia," by Drs. Axel Cedercreutz and A. Paldrock.

"EDUCATION, HEALTH AND AGRICULTURE IN INDIA SINCE 1921."

By The Duchess of Atholl.

The above pamphlet has been brought to our notice by the India Defence League. This document is of interest to us, in that under the section dealing with health it is mentioned that a recent survey showed that leprosy had increased fourfold since 1921. While such a statement draws attention to the importance of the problem in India it, however, is not quite correct. What has happened is that, as a result of the modern methods of diagnosis, a larger number of cases of leprosy can be recognised. It is important in evaluating a survey, to endeavour to estimate whether the increased number of cases is due to the fact that cases which were previously unknown had become revealed, or was due to an actual increase in the disease; for, unless this differentiation is made, the conclusions drawn from actual statistics, may be erroneous.