

## REVIEWS.

**International Journal of Leprosy.** Vol. 15, No. 2. Apr.-June, 1947.

*Therapeutic Value of Chaulmoogra in the Treatment of Leprosy*, by Salomon Schujman. This article is a valuable and timely one coming, as it does, when sulphone treatment is tending to overshadow the benefits that can be obtained with adequate dosages of hydnocarpus oil. The author summarises as follows:—

“The disagreement of many authors regarding the therapeutic value of chaulmoogra oil is due essentially to the lack of uniformity in the selection of the cases to be treated. The therapeutical value of chaulmoogra should be appraised only by the results obtained in lepromatous cases. With the derivatives of chaulmoogra it is possible to achieve persistent clinical and bacteriological negativation of lepromatous cases; the treatment, however, must be administered early; it must be sufficient, and must be continued after the negative result has been achieved.

“In more than 80 per cent of cases the failures of chaulmoogra are due to irregular and insufficient treatment. Notwithstanding, there is a small percentage of patients which do not react favourably to customary doses of chaulmoogra oil.

“In obtaining favourable results in lepromatous cases, the author attributes great importance to the intradermic administration of chaulmoogra oil. New drugs should be experimented with, but we must not think of abandoning chaulmoogra oil.”

*Local Treatment of Leprous Ulcers with Crude Preparations of Streptomycin*, by G. L. Fite, P. T. Erickson, F. Gemar, and F. A. Johansen. This is an extremely well-illustrated article on the effect of the local application of crude streptomycin broth to chronic, trophic, mixed and lepromatous ulcers. The results obtained seem to be specially significant in mixed and lepromatous ulceration.

*Contribution to the Study of Classification of Leprosy: Aspect of Lesions, Antigenic Response and Presence of Micro-organism in Histologic Structure*, by H. Portugal. The substance of this article is really condensed into its somewhat ponderous title. In the study of the S. American Classification, the author covers a wide field, and his discussion of uncharacteristic types is of real interest.

*Pathogenic Bases of the South American Classification of Leprosy*, by M. de Souza Lima, J. B. Rubio, Lauro de Souza-Lima and P. Rath de Souza. This is an interesting and stimulating discussion of the pathogenic bases of leprosy variation in terms of degrees of phagocytosis. It is neat and intellectually attractive. But the reader must judge for himself whether it corresponds to the facts.

*Early and Late Reactions to Lepromin in Contacts*, by Noberto Olmos-Castle and Pascual B. Arcuri. A short study shewing that

the early and late reactions in the crude Mitsuda test are of the same value.

*Leprosy in Spain*, by Felix Contreras Duenas. The author estimates that there are at least four thousand lepers in Spain and draws attention to the increase in the disease due to the Civil War. (It would be of immense value and interest if parallel estimates of leprosy in war-torn territories such as Italy and Greece could also be made.—Ed.)

*On the Epidemiology of Leprosy in French Guiana*, by H. Floch. A study of the history of the disease in French Guiana, with particular interest in the lepromin test in children.

*Public Health Management of Leprosy in the United States*, by G. McCoy. This is a short but most interesting and important article on leprosy administration. It should be read by everybody interested in the public health control of leprosy.

*Summary of the Work of the Brazilian Federation of Societies for Assistance to Lepers*, by Mrs. Eunice Weaver. A study in "Welfare" on which subject the author is a recognised authority.

This issue of the Journal also reprints an article by V. Pardo-Castello and Francisco R. Tiant entitled *Leprosy: The Correlation of its Clinical, Pathologic, Immunologic and Bacteriologic Aspects*. This is a compact general study and is interestingly written. There are one or two errors. For instance, the statement is made that tuberculoid reaction never lasts less than three months. In describing the lepromin test, only the out-dated Mitsuda reaction is mentioned, instead of the modern refined lepromin of Dharmendra.

**International Journal of Leprosy**, Vol. 15, No. 3. July-Sept. 1948.

*Blood and Urine Concentration of Promin, Diasone and Promizole in the Treatment of Leprosy*, by Sister Hilary Ross. This article contains a number of interesting and useful observations, including the point that there is no correlation between blood promin levels and the clinical progress of the patient. The article, which cannot be summarised, should be read by all interested in the laboratory control of sulphone.

*Frequency of the Clinical Types of Leprosy according to the Natural Regions of Brazil*, by Joao Batisti Risi. This article was reprinted in the January number of the *Leprosy Review*.

*Leprosy in the State of Rio Grande do Sul*, by P. Mendes and

G. Mangeon. The authors give an account of the history of leprosy in Rio Grande do Sul and of the work of the State in its measures to combat the disease.

*The Mitsuda Test in Non-Leprous Persons in a Non-Endemic Country*, by Ruben D. Azulay and Jacinto Convit. The authors find that 74 per cent of 73 non-leprous patients gave a positive Mitsuda reaction.

*Private Co-operation in the Campaign against Leprosy in Brazil*, by Eunice Weaver. This is an interesting general account of the magnificent welfare work for patients and their children in Brazil.

*Observation on the Classification of Leprosy*, by J. N. Rodriguez. This is a lengthy and important article in which the author suggests a modification of the South American classification. He divides leprosy into four stages, interstitial (maculo anaesthetic): perivascular round cell (uncharacteristic): tuberculoid and lepromatous. This article is worthy of most careful study. (It would be of great benefit if Dr. Rodriguez would give us a further paper, with photographs and clinical descriptions of his suggested classification.—Ed.).

*A Propos de la Nouvelle Classification Pan Americaine de la Lepre*, by R. Chaussinand. This paper is a criticism (in French) of the South American Classification, in which the author makes a plea for simplicity and the avoidance of confusion by repeated changes in terminology. He advocates the retention of the Cairo classification, adding secondary symbols C (cutaneous) and P (polyneuritic), and also a macular Nt 1 symbol for intermediate types.

This number of the Journal reprints an article on "*The Sulphone Treatment of Leprosy*," by E. Muir. This is a general survey of sulphone therapy and constitutes a useful and lucid summary of our knowledge up to date.

Reprinted also in this issue is *Leprosy of the Eye and its Appendages*, by S. N. Chatterji—a useful and practical account of symptomatology and treatment.

**International Journal of Leprosy**, Vol. 15, No. 4..Oct.-Dec. 1947.

*Historical Inquiry as a Method of Estimating the Trend of Leprosy*, by Jas. A. Doull, Ricardo S. Guinto, Huldah Bancroft and Jose N. Rodriguez. This is a careful and scientific study of incidence trends in leprosy in the Philippines. This article, which is difficult to summarise, deserves the serious attention of everyone interested in the long term tendencies of the disease in an endemic country.

*Erythema Nodosum in Leprosy*, by R. R. Wolcott. The author claims that there is a sharp distinction between lepra reaction and the recurring acute phases of leprosy which are seen during sulphone treatment, and which he terms erythema nodosum. Many leprologists, however, would not agree with the clinical distinctions made by the author, particularly the statement that lepra reaction lesions are not painful on pressure. No reference is made to the fact that exaggerated reflexes and plantar hyperalgesia may be found in both conditions. (The case for erythema nodosum as a separate syndrome in leprosy would require further proof before it receives general acceptance.—Ed.).

*Immunology of Leprosy*, by J. M. M. Fernandez and Rodolfo Mercau. The authors study the effects of *M. leprae* suspended in different oils. They conclude that the antigenic properties of *M. leprae* are increased in an oily medium.

*Epidemic Foci of Leprosy in the State of Texas*, by F. A. Johansen. An account of the incidence of leprosy in Texas, with some general observations on the problem.

*Leprosy in Ancient Indian Medicine*, by Dharmendra. A scholarly account of the subject, shewing that the disease was probably well known and well described in India 2,500 years ago.

The Editorial of this issue contains a valuable review of scientific papers published in the Journal for 1942-1947.

### **Leprosy in India, Vol. XIX, No. 2. April, 1947.**

*The Treatment of Leprosy with Hydnocarpus Remedies*, by Dharmendra and N. Mukerjee. This article deals with the routine treatment of leprosy for those with limited experience of the disease. It is clearly written and well illustrated.

*Lagophthalmos in Leprosy*, by S. N. Chatterjee and Dharmendra. The authors deal with the general considerations underlying the problem of leprotic lagophthalmos: anatomical and physiological aspects; mechanism, associated changes and treatment. There is a wise advocacy of prophylactic and medical therapy. The illustrations are excellent.

Dr. Muir's article on *Diasone in the Treatment of Leprosy*, originally published in this Review in October, 1946 is reprinted in this issue.

**Leprosy in India**, Vol. XIX, No. 3. July, 1947.

*Iodised Hydnocarpus Oil in the Treatment of Leprosy*, by P. J. Chandy. This is a short account of forty-four cases treated with a specially iodised Hydnocarpus oil. After two years treatment twenty-nine of these forty-four cases had become bacteriologically negative. As the Editor points out in a footnote, these were originally lepromatous cases of a favourable type. (Tolerance to a special preparation of Hydnocarpus oil can hardly be judged without controls, and cannot be estimated by small dosages of 1-8 cc. a week.—Ed.).

*The Use of Massage in Leprosy*, by H. H. Gass. A short article advocating the more general use of massage, particularly in neural cases.

*Leprosy and anti-leprosy work in Almora*, by M. Masih. This is an account of anti-leprosy work in the Almora district of the United Provinces. The population is 60,000 and there are estimated to be about 2,000 cases of leprosy. The work of the various missions clinics, surveys, etc. is described.



*When the Song Began* (Carey Press, 88 pp., 2/6d.) is an account by George Hicks of his work with the Baptist Missionary Society, including the Superintendence of a Leprosy Asylum at Gaya in Bihar and Orissa. Mr. Hick's story goes back a good many years, and it is not surprising to find that he met the usual difficulties—fear of contact, lack of specific cure, complication of clean wives and children, etc. Nor is it surprising to find that, by his devoted and patient work, the asylum had, when he left it, developed into an attractive, well built institution, where 250 patients were under treatment.