

Chaussinand, R. La lèpre. 2nd Edition. 310 pp. 1955.

This new edition of Dr. Chaussinand's well known book on leprosy is enlarged from 212 to 310 pages. It has broader pages, better type and binding, and in place of 75 figures, has now 130, of which 18 are in colour. There are 8 new sections on immunological and serological tests, classification, and epidemiology. The section on treatment is almost entirely rewritten, and chaulmoogra oil, instead of appearing as the principal treatment, is now relegated to the position of an accessory, useful in producing aesthetic results in some tuberculoid lesions, and in painful neuritic conditions. The treatment of choice is DDS given daily by mouth, the maximum dose being 2 mgm/kg. of body weight. Only if this daily treatment is not possible should weekly or bi-weekly (oral or by injection) treatment be resorted to.

The thiosemicarbazones are mentioned as the second basic form of treatment, to be used only temporarily in those intolerant to DDS.

The clinical section is very clear in its descriptions and illustrations of the various forms of lesions. The "borderline" case, seldom understood, is plainly described, and it is said to yield more readily to treatment than the major tuberculoid.

In the section on prophylaxis the theory of relative crossed protection between tuberculosis is argued clearly and at length. The use of BCG for prophylaxis in leprosy should be studied especially in regions where the endemicity of leprosy is high, or the future extension of tuberculosis is a grave menace.

This book is strongly recommended to all engaged in leprosy work and who are able to read French. The arrangement is convenient, the style clear, and the photographs of cases with the descriptions alongside make it easy to understand the appearances and nature of leprosy lesions. The author has gathered his information and many of his illustrations from those engaged in leprosy research all over the world, and has woven these together with his own wide experience of leprosy in Indochina and in France into a clear picture of the disease in all its aspects.