

Dubois, A. *La Lèpre, Diagnostic et Traitement*. 72 pp. 15 figs. (1 coloured), 1955. Anvers, Belgium.

The author writes from his long experience of leprosy in the Belgian Congo, where the campaign against leprosy is being pursued with great vigour, and the Government has supplied large quantities of sulphones for treatment and appointed a number of leprologists. The Red Cross and the Father Damien Foundation are also extending their activities and there is thus the need of a book which gives the essentials about diagnosis and treatment simply and clearly. After a few paragraphs on history and geography, etiology is discussed shortly. Under pathology the man-bacillus relationship is treated under 5 classes of subjects: (1) Refractory subjects in whom there is complete escape from the disease, the role of tuberculosis in bringing this about has yet to be established; (2) those in whom the infection is latent; (3) those in whom there are only a few macules of doubtful nature and who are regarded as "suspects"; (4) those with few bacilli and a benign form of the disease, generally classified either as tuberculoid or indeterminate, and of whom consist 80 to 85 per cent of cases in the Belgian Congo; (5) malignant leprosy with many bacilli. The descriptions and illustrations combined make it easy to recognise the different kinds of lesions, and diagnose leprosy from other diseases and classify the different types. Exception is taken to the Madrid Congress classification which includes all non-lepromatous flat lesions as indeterminate; many of these should be designated "simple". An adequate account is given of treatment, DDS being recommended as the drug of choice.

Prophylaxis is dealt with shortly in one page. In the Appendix such subjects as staining, lepromin, leprosy of the eye, estimation of sulphone concentration, treatment with iron preparations, are explained in more detail.

The author makes no claim to have written a textbook, but he has succeeded well in accomplishing his object of supplying clearly and concisely all the information necessary for diagnosing and treating leprosy.