

Book Reviews

Leprosy. New Hope and Continuing Challenge, by STANLEY G. BROWNE, O.B.E., M.D., F.R.C.P., F.R.C.S., D.T.M., 68 pages, 19 illustrations, published by The Leprosy Mission, 7 Bloomsbury Square, London, W.C.1, price 2s.

The book is a lucid account of modern leprosy and is much needed because, in spite of our boasted modernity and the fact that leprosy is curable, the attitude of most people to leprosy is barbarous and prejudiced. Dr. Browne's first chapter considers the new hope for leprosy sufferers. His second chapter defines ideas about it, including the Biblical attitude that the sufferer was 'stricken by God', until the Christian attitude considered it curable and that it can be cured. May the reviewer point out his opinion that Christ was in fact the first human being to touch a leprosy patient and to cure him. In the third chapter the author recognises the apparent 'uniqueness' of leprosy because it is a miserable disease and he mentions the Leprosy Mission and other Missions which have grown up to bring special mercy and give the special effort which the disease demands. The fourth chapter is a practical one about the origin and spread of leprosy and shows that leprosy spreads by people. There is a causative agent, a germ *M. leprae* and it is spread by human beings. Leprosy is not highly contagious, but it *is* contagious, and probably the invasion is helped by a genetic susceptibility, and by the victim being young in most cases. Dr. Browne outlines the new hope for the deformed in leprosy. He outlines the new treatment for the disease and a leprosy service in action. There is

a great need of young people to volunteer for this wonderful service.

Dr. Browne's book is very good value for 2s. and should be read by every person.

The Changing Pattern, by S. G. BROWNE, O.B.E., M.D., F.R.C.P., F.R.C.S., D.T.M., 7 pages, 1 illustration, published by The Leprosy Mission, 7 Bloomsbury Square, London, W.C.1, price 10d.

This is such a valuable pamphlet of an address by Dr. S. G. Browne that it should be thoughtfully acquired and added to his book, 'Leprosy', perhaps as an inset.

Mahatma Gandhi Answers the Challenge of Leprosy, by T. N. JAGADISAN, 53B Edward Elliot Road, Madras, 27 pages, 5 illustrations, printed at the Diocesan Press, Madras, India, price Rs. 2.

This delightful book deals intimately with that great soul, the only national leader in the world whose heart was big enough to be concerned with his brethren who suffered from leprosy and to seek to help them as Mahatma Gandhi did in so many ways which the author enlightens the reader about. He makes it clear to us that the answer to the challenge of leprosy is love and sacrifice. It is fascinating that he gives us facsimiles of so many holographs of Gandhi. We end with gratitude to T. N. Jagadisan and gratitude to God for the Mahatma.