

## Book Reviews

*Epidemiological Studies of Some Tuberculosis Control Measures in a Developing Country*, by TAGE EGSMORE. Munksgaard, Copenhagen. 1969. Price: Dan. Kr. 30.00.

This 113-page publication, which is a thesis "accepted by the Medical Faculty of the University of Copenhagen to be defended in public for the medical doctorate", embodies the results of field investigations conducted by the author in Kenya from 1961-66. Although these studies are primarily concerned with BCG vaccination for the prevention of tuberculosis, they offer valuable hints to leprologists who will be increasingly concerned with measures of mass vaccination of populations exposed to both tuberculosis and leprosy. Since in many developing countries it is impossible at present (and in the foreseeable future), because of sheer lack of men and money and medical infrastructure, to provide treatment for more than one-tenth of the "open" cases of pulmonary tuberculosis, the only feasible control measure is prophylaxis. It is well recognized now that massive and repeated challenge will overcome the resistance to tuberculosis induced by BCG vaccination, and that severe undernutrition may preclude the development of vaccine-induced allergy. Notwithstanding these and other adverse factors, BCG provides the least expensive and most hopeful method for the control of tuberculosis in the inhabitants of the developing countries.

These studies have their lessons for leprologists, and emphasize the advantages that would follow the linking of leprosy with tuberculosis in the initial planning, the execution and the statistical evaluation of schemes for mass prophylaxis by BCG vaccination. Perhaps it is not too late to assess critically the value of some schemes, already under way in several countries, and their effect on the future incidence of leprosy in the growing child populations of these countries.

*Cell-mediated Immune Responses: Report of a WHO Scientific Group*, Geneva, 1969, 61 pages (Wld Hlth Org. techn. Rep. Ser., No. 423). Price: 8s./\$1.25/Sw. fr. 4.0.

Two classes of immune response are recognized at present: one humoral, mediated by specialized cells that synthesize and secrete humoral antibodies of the various immunoglobulin types; the other mediated by specifically sensitized cells of the lymphocyte series. This report is concerned with the second type of response, which is increasingly thought to play a crucial role in defence mechanisms and disease processes of great clinical importance such as transplant rejection, defence against neoplastic growth, resistance to certain types of bacterial, viral, mycotic, and parasitic agents, and autoimmune processes.

The report outlines present knowledge of the phenomena of cell-mediated immunity, indicates where further knowledge is needed, and points out the problems to be solved. Beginning with a discussion of the source of the cells responsible for the phenomenon, it then deals with delayed-type hypersensitivity reactions, the toxic effect of lymphocytes on target cells *in vitro*, antibodies and cell-mediated immunity, the relevance of such immunity to pathogenesis, and the modification and control of cell-mediated immune responses.

The report clearly brings out the relevance of cell-mediated immunity to a large number of medical disciplines in which its importance is only gradually becoming understood. To assist readers in a subject about which so little is known generally, a select bibliography is appended, grouped according to the topics covered in the report.

Reprinted from *WHO Chronicle*, 1969, 23, 543.