

Book Review

Handbuch der Haut- und Geschlechtskrankheiten by H. Röckl (Ed.). Vol. 4, Pt. 1 B. Infektionskrankheiten der Haut. II. XI + 568 pp. illustrated, 1970. Springer: Berlin, Heidelberg, & New York, DM 248.

This book is probably meant as a complement to Victor Klingmüller's famous German handbook "*Die Lepra*". It can certainly not serve as a handbook on leprosy, since it scarcely deals with the practical side of the disease. One looks in vain for such subjects as reconstructive surgery, rehabilitation, and the social and psychological aspects of the disease.

The most important chapter is the first, by G. Klingmüller, on the pathology and clinical picture of leprosy. It is written from the point of view of a dermatological histopathologist, and provides a broad coverage of the literature up to fairly recently. The chapter is well illustrated.

There are two chapters by L. M. Bechelli. The first, dealing with premunition in leprosy, is based mainly on the South American literature before 1964. The second is on treatment; it contains much obsolete material, and fails to mention many new developments. M. I. Quiroga's chapter about prevention and control is almost exclusively based on the South American situation. It is very out of date. It is astonishing to read, in a work dated 1971, a recommendation for "selective compulsory isolation". H. Schmidt writes about serology, but the exciting newer developments in this field are not mentioned.

Though it contains much of interest, the book cannot be recommended to the leprosy worker in the field. It may have a place in the library of large institutions—only they can afford to buy it!

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