

**Rehabilitation of Leprosy Patients in a Comprehensive Control Programme in the Gudiyattam Taluk, S. India, by Mrs S. Karat, D. A. Ranney and P. V. Kurian, 132 pp.**

This report in book form of 7 years of co-ordinated study of rehabilitation problems in a large comprehensive leprosy control programme contains many points of interest. Chapter headings include: Base Line Data on Disability, Aspects of Nerve Status, The Development of Disability, Restoration of Muscle Balance, Preservation of Anaesthetic Limbs and Vocational Training. Important observations include the high prevalence of neurological deficits, the heavy involvement of patients with lepromatous leprosy and the beneficial effect on these of dapsone therapy, the assessment of surgical procedures, and the exploration of domiciliary care and prevention of trophic ulcers. Inevitably in a study which is breaking new ground more questions are raised than are resolved, and some subjects are dealt with in greater detail than others. There is for instance the poor outlook even under dapsone therapy for so many disabilities in people with non-lepromatous leprosy. This is not in accord with the reviewer's experience, but the terms of reference need defining. With the mass of information available the classification of patients according to the Ridley-Jopling scale would have been very helpful and probably resolved the rather surprising finding that only 11.6% of patients had Borderline leprosy, and also that only 21% of tuberculoid cases suffered from neurological disability. This figure suggests that large numbers of patients with tuberculoid leprosy had the disease in an exceedingly mild form and therefore the question of progress under dapsone was largely irrelevant. Some details of the grades of disability would have been helpful, especially as the details in Table 1.3 do not lend themselves to summation from this angle. A pertinent question is also how assiduously massage and hand and foot exercises were carried out at outpatient clinics. No details of this are given. The general impression is nevertheless one of admiration at the enormous work involved in summarizing so many statistics and, very important indeed, the domiciliary orientated approach of the whole subject.

The Report is not offered for sale. It is available from Dr E. Fritschi, Superintendent, S.L.R. Sanatorium, Karigiri, via Katpadi, N. Arcot, S. India, provided that the cost of postage is covered.

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