

## Book Reviews

**Leprosy for Medical Students and Practitioners** by K. K. Koticha, Acworth Leprosy Hospital, Bombay 400 031. Price Rs. 12/-; U.S. \$2; U.K. £1. First Edition, 1978.

This is a 32-page booklet on pages rather larger than A4, intended mainly to supplement the lectures given at the Acworth Leprosy Hospital. One of the early sections contains interesting information on the distribution of leprosy in India, and in Greater Bombay and the City of Bombay itself. Of the currently estimated world total of 11-12 million cases of leprosy, India is estimated to have 3 millions, with a prevalence of 10 or more per thousand in Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Orissa, West Bengal, Bihar, Karnataka and Maharashtra. Bombay alone has over 80,000 cases. The main body of the text gives a standard account of the subject including aetiology, pathogenesis, clinical findings, histopathology, diagnosis, treatment and control. The dosage of dapsone is detailed on page 21, starting with 25 mg daily, increasing at 3-monthly intervals to 100 mg daily after 9 months. In the management of reaction on page 24, it is advised that dapsone should be stopped or "the dose reduced and substituted by Diphenyl thiourea (DPT)". The author advises that the latter should be continued for 6-12 months, after which "...DDS should be re-introduced though now in very small doses, e.g. 10 mg twice a week and gradually increased".

Although this first edition is marked 1978, some of the advice and information seems a little out of date (for instance, *DPT* is no longer in production by the CIBA Company; *ethyl mercaptans* for skin inunction have a short section on page 23, but *combined drugs for lepromatous leprosy* (same page) are not described in adequate detail; *research on the armadillo* is not mentioned). This booklet should be of value in the Bombay area and for the continued teaching of leprosy at the Acworth Hospital, but it may have some difficulty in competing with others of similar length and price, produced in India and elsewhere.

A. C. McDOUGALL

**The Book of Outlines**, by S. Hasan, 1977. Published by Hind Kusht Nivaran Sangh, Andhra Pradesh Branch, 3-4-760 Barkatpura, Hyderabad 500 027. Price Rs. 16/-.

This is a 126-page paperback, A4 size, written for "Para-medical workers and readers, who are interested in elementary anatomy, physiology, pathology, bacteriology, food, communicable diseases; and leprosy with its variable problems". The author is himself a para-medical worker, who joined the Leprosy Training Centre, Hyderabad, as a physiotherapist in 1968. The book is divided into two sections of approximately equal length, the first dealing with the list of general topics noted above, and the second with leprosy as a special subject. There is an enormous amount of information in these pages, and on the whole it is well set out and easy to read, but the quality of the hand-drawn illustrations is not always good and some of those illustrating basic anatomy are misleading. There are a large number of spelling mistakes which should be corrected in the next issue, and the title of the book could well be changed to something more descriptive of the actual contents. Mr Hasan has put a great deal of work into this publication which, although composed largely of standard, accepted knowledge, may nevertheless be of value to para-medical workers in India coming to the study of leprosy for the first time.

A. C. McDOUGALL