

## Book Reviews

**Two New Medical Journals:** (1) The Journal of Immunopharmacology, (2) Parasite Immunology.

**(1) The Journal of Immunopharmacology**

The first number of Volume 1 is now available (1978-1979), published by Marcel Dekker, Inc., 270 Maddison Avenue, New York, 10016.

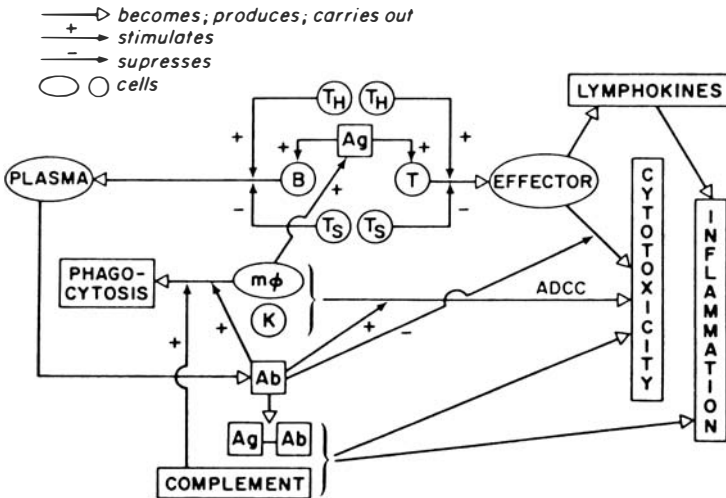
There is a discount for Volume 1, expiring 31 October 1979, as follows:

Institutional rate for Volume 1 of 4 issues: \$36.00 (normally \$40.00)

Individual rate for the same: \$18.00 (Normally \$20.00).

This journal presents a forum for publication of clinical studies and research results in the area of immunopharmacology. Immunopharmacology represents an interface between the disciplines of immunology and pharmacology and implies the use of drugs or other agents in modulation of the immune system. The scope of both these areas encompasses a wide variety of topics which are constantly changing. It is, consequently, difficult to define these disciplines without excluding some facets which may be pertinent. However, with currently understood definitions of immunology and pharmacology as a basis, the Journal will accept papers which are concerned with the meeting of these disciplines. Papers will be accepted in areas of both clinical and basic research. Categories for manuscript will include invited reviews, full papers, and brief communications.

In their editorial, the Executive and Associate Editors say that “. . . the principal impetus for the current interest in agents which modulate the immune system has been the extraordinary increase in understanding of the immune system, with the concomitant realization of its complexity.” and they offer the figure below



as "an attempt" to summarize the principal reactions of the immune response, adding that "in addition to the control mechanisms already built into the system it is obvious that there are many reactions at which pharmacological control may be possible. The number of reactions presently controllable represent merely a beginning and in many cases the control is, unfortunately, relatively non-specific. There is no doubt that our ability to control these reactions will increase as we learn more about the systems involved. It is conceivable that it will, in the future, be possible to control all of the reactions indicated in the figure."

(Material from this journal, which has no fewer than 40 eminent names on its Editorial Board, should clearly be watched with care by those working on the immunology and drug treatment of leprosy and its reactions.)

## (2) Parasite Immunology

Following a preliminary note in *Leprosy Review*, the first number of Volume 1 (Spring, 1979) is now available, with an editorial by R. J. Terry, School of Biological Sciences, Brunel University, Uxbridge, U.K. and A. C. Allison, Ilrad, Nairobi, Kenya. The last paragraphs of this read:—

"The literature on the subject is currently scattered in many journals which deal at the same time with other aspects of parasitology, immunology and tropical medicine. We have no wish to see this practice discontinued, but we do feel that it is timely to provide a central forum where, through publication, ideas may be exchanged and new concepts rapidly disseminated. As Editors of *Parasite Immunology*, we welcome papers dealing with any parasite, relating to either fundamental or applied aspects of immunity. We shall, of course, require that they tell us something new, and that the investigations have been soundly conducted.

We look forward to presenting the results of work in these related fields of investigation to the widest possible audience through the growth of this new venture—*Parasite Immunology*."

This new journal will be published quarterly at an annual subscription of £21.00 (U.K.), £26.00 (overseas) and \$57.50 (U.S.A. and Canada). It is printed by Blackwells Scientific Publications, 8 John Street, London WC1N 2ES, and papers should be sent to the Editors at that address.

**Leprosy**, 2nd edit. By Anthony Bryceson and Roy E. Pfaltzgraff, 1979. Published by Churchill Livingstone, Edinburgh, London and New York. Price £4.00.

The first edition of this book, published in 1973 under the title "Leprosy for Students of Medicine", was, of course, extremely popular. It is a pleasure to see this second edition, which will undoubtedly be of the greatest value to doctors, medical students and para-medical workers at various levels. The subject matter has been expanded and brought up to date. There are 56 black and white plates, many of which are of absolutely superb quality; it is in fact doubtful if such excellence has ever before been achieved in a book of this kind, and they should stimulate those who are concerned with education in leprosy to obtain comparable prints for everyday use in the classroom or seminar.

[As the authors say in their preface, a number of mistakes in the first edition have now been remedied, but it is still slightly irritating to see that many authors' initials are incorrect, and that the following names (here spelt correctly) are mis-spelt in the references or text—Refsum, Ziehl-Neelsen, Wassermann, Møller-Christensen, Shepard, Kirchheimer, Skinsnes, Pettit, Narayanan, Dupuytren and *Culex fatigans*.]

This book, at only £4 is a treasure-house of information on the theory and practice of leprosy. Much of the authors' experience is from Africa, and one cannot help wondering if there is not a case for ensuring that a book of this kind should be distributed systematically, and without delay, to the appropriate teachers in all the universities of Africa with a medical school.

**The Leprosy Foot Project**, by George Clarkson. Printed privately. Obtainable as below

This is a loose-leaf paperback of 37 pages on the subject of deformity of the feet in leprosy and the provision of suitable shoes, under the following main headings:— (1) The Leprosy Foot Project, (2) Making Plastazote shoes, (3) Organizing the Project. The author has had a practical training in footwear construction and spent four years during the war in medical work.

His main interest in the subject developed in 1969, in the leprosarium of Ifakura in Tanzania. This booklet contains many excellent colour photographs illustrating what can be done, with patience and skill, for patients with advanced grades of disability in the leg and foot. It is full of practical advice: for instance (p. 35), "Don't tell Sisters how to treat leprosy".

Mr George Clarkson has very generously written to say that he would be happy to send a copy of this book free of all cost to leprosy field workers. For those who are in a position to pay, however, we feel it should be recorded that each copy costs £1.50 to produce. His address is 173 London Road, Clacton on Sea, Essex, U.K.

A. C. McDOUGALL

#### **Footwear Manual for Leprosy Control Programs**, Edited by P. J. Neville of ALERT

The All Africa Leprosy and Rehabilitation Training Centre in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia has some excellent publications to its credit. They have been pertinent, clear and readable. This new "Footwear Manual for Leprosy Control Programs", is outstanding. It has a clear objective and is aimed at specific personnel for a defined purpose. It is intended for use by the staff who produce footwear under supervision in rural areas. It is clearly based on experience and this experience has been obtained in Ethiopia. Herein lies both its strength and its weakness. Most of the patients in the clinics served by ALERT have been barefoot and have come from a background entirely without shoes. Thus, if they can accept the need for footwear they are willing to use the simplest variety. In a slightly more sophisticated society some of the footwear described in this manual might not be accepted. It would have been nice to have had a section on modification of regular shoes or sandals suitable for an urban population.

I would also have liked to have seen something on the clog principle, a rocker shoe or boot with a rigid sole. This would have been for the patient with a foot too bad for the Plastazote sandal, but not bad enough for the FAB walker.

Notwithstanding these limitations this is by far the best footwear manual for leprosy programs that I have seen. It starts with no assumption of previous knowledge. It tells what a hammer is and how to set up a bench. There are clear diagrams on how to utilize different grades of leather and parts of a motor tire. We learn how to take a plaster model of a foot and how to sew and glue materials together. There is information on how to set up a workshop and how to estimate the cost of footwear. There is an admirable section on the kneeling prosthesis and the kneeling device for healing ulcers. Both of these are geared to rural areas, but that is where the need is and that is where technology is lacking.

Not every shoe or prosthetic department in the world will want to produce exactly the types of shoe described here, but there must be few who would not learn a lot from the instructions and probably none who would not benefit from the philosophy which shines through the whole production. It is a philosophy which says that if a need exists—go ahead and meet it with whatever you have available and with appropriate technology applied by the people on the spot, no matter what their previous qualifications. To that I say AMEN!

PAUL BRAND

#### **Physical Therapy in Leprosy for Paramedicals**, by Ellen Davis Kelly, Ph.D.

This book is a training manual for paramedical workers in leprosy. It is a remarkable production and the author is to be congratulated for the patient work that has gone into its production and for the admirable clarity and discipline which characterizes it.

Dr Kelly has an impressive background for her authorship. She has been a teacher of health education and physical education for more than 40 years. She is in fact a teacher of teachers and is the author of a standard text "Adaptive and Corrective Physical Education", which is still used in the United States for teacher training. Since her retirement Dr. Kelly has worked as a volunteer in Ethiopia where she organized all the training programs at ALERT and did a lot of the teaching herself.

Lest the casual observer thinks this either too large a book or too advanced for health workers in leprosy, one has only to read the sections carefully to see that its size is used chiefly to make quite sure that each statement is understandable on the basis of earlier statements in the book. No pre-knowledge is taken for granted. The whole teaching and learning process flows in

an orderly sequence and is understandable step by step by anyone who can read and understand English. The manual is arranged in three levels. Level I is a summary of aspects of leprosy which are important to physical therapy, health education, and home health care. Level II covers physical therapy techniques for use in hospitals, clinics and in the field. Level III covers pre and post-operative physical therapy and the anatomy and physiology necessary to understand it.

Throughout the manual there is a parallel teaching of Knowledge and Skill. Each piece of knowledge is matched with the skill or application which grows out of it. The whole production is illustrated and clarified with diagrams from artist David White who has combined beauty and simplicity in his work.

In almost any manual for programmed education the subject is taught with a certain dogmatic assurance, as if we knew the answers and as if each question had just one right answer. This is justifiable because this is not a background for research but to put our existing knowledge to work where it is needed. Even so, some teachers may be annoyed to find instructions that they do not agree with. In the application of a plaster cast for example, some would want padding placed around the malleoli before the plaster casts are applied, others, like myself would want to go on moulding the first layer of plaster until it had set—to get a perfect inner layer before all the plaster slabs and strengthening foot plates are applied. I also would have wanted a warning about the need to remove the cast early (a) if the leg had been swollen before the cast was applied (b) if the cast became loose or cracked even a little, and (c) if the patient felt something was wrong inside. These individual differences of emphasis are inevitable and I would hope that nobody would allow any book to become a substitute for personal supervision and teaching; however, this should not make any teacher discard a teaching manual such as this simply because it does not accord with all of his or her own ideas. Most of us over-emphasize the details we have learned from our own experience and neglect the wealth of wisdom available from the experience of others. This manual has been carefully collated from many sources and will serve to ensure a broad solid background of knowledge and skill on the basis of which each of us may highlight our own special insights and unique experience.

PAUL BRAND