

## Book Reviews

**Handbook of Ophthalmology for Developing Countries**, by G G Bisley. Oxford University Press, Oxford, 1980, 170 pp, £4.50 UK. English Language Book Society Edition available only in the Third World £1.50.

Ophthalmic textbooks may be divided broadly into two groups: those which present facts and those which present guidance, and this small handbook by G G Bisley happily falls into the latter group. This is the second edition of a book first published in 1973 and originally designed for undergraduate medical students in developing countries. There have been a number of additions both on clinical and scientific subjects and there are more illustrations. The result is a very readable, instructive book, drawing considerably on the author's wide experience as an ophthalmologist in East Africa. Some of these conditions described have a local flavour but the book is comprehensive enough to cover the whole field of ophthalmology and provide ample information not just for undergraduates, but also for post-graduates wishing to expand their knowledge of ocular problems.

The illustrations consist mainly of simple line diagrams together with black-and-white photographs of ophthalmic practice in Africa. The section on leprosy is small and has not been updated as much as some of the other sections, but the ocular complications are described and the need for early prevention of the disease and co-operation with leprologists is emphasized. Within its context the author has provided a useful handbook which can be recommended for all those interested in working in ocular disease in developing countries and it should be essential reading for those concerned with East Africa.

T J FFYTCH

**The Membrane Pathobiology of Tropical Diseases; Tropical Diseases Research Series, Number 2**, Schwabe & Co AG, Basle, Switzerland.

Proceedings of the meeting held in Titisee, Federal Republic of Germany, 4–8 October 1978. Published on behalf of UNDP/World Bank/WHO; Special Programme for Research and Training in Tropical Diseases.

The chapter headings are: plasma membranes and eukaryotic cells; malaria; leprosy; leishmaniasis; Chagas' disease; African trypanosomiasis; schistosomiasis; filariasis. That on leprosy includes sections on clinical aspects, immunology, efforts to control leprosy, model systems, ultrastructural study of cellular response to *Mycobacterium leprae*, physiologic properties of *M. leprae-murium*, selective uptake of a host's protein during the parasitic cycle of the micro-organisms *Bdellovibrio bacteriovorus*.

**The *in vitro* Cultivation of the Pathogens of Tropical Diseases; Tropical Diseases Research Series Number 3**, Schwabe and Co AG, Basle, Switzerland

Proceedings of the Workshop held in Nairobi, Kenya, 4–9 February 1979. Publications details as above.

The chapter headings are: cultivation of malaria parasites; cultivation of *Theileria* parasites; cultivation of African trypanosomes; cultivation of *Trypanosoma cruzi*; cultivation of leishmaniasis *spp.*; cultivation of leprosy pathogens; cultivation of schistosomes; cultivation of filariae; nutritional requirements; virulence.

[These valuable publications contain a

great deal of information for the specialist in these fields and a wealth of references at the end of each chapter. It is our understanding that *bona fide* applicants may obtain copies on formal application to the TDR programme. *Editor*]

**Erythema Nodosum, with special reference to sarcoidosis; a clinical study of 343 Finnish adult patients**, by Matti Hannuksela, from the Department of Dermatology, University Central Hospital, Helsinki, Finland, 1971.

Although somewhat dated, this monograph of 63 pages (available on request from the Editorial Office of this journal) contains many interesting observations relating to studies on sarcoidosis and erythema nodosum in general. It was published as supplement number 7 to Volume 3 of the *Annals of Clinical Research* in 1971 and the study was supported by a grant from the Yrjo Jahnsson Foundation in Finland. The author sets out with the idea of finding answers to the following questions: '(1) In how many cases

of EN is it possible to find aetiological factors? (2) How often are there two or more probable or possible/aetiological factors in a single case? Can one ascertain the most important cause of EN in these cases? (3) Do the cases of various aetiological groups differ from each other, taking into account the patients' age and sex, the clinical picture and the course of the eruption, and the results of the X-ray and laboratory examinations? (4) Are there differences between typical erythema nodosum and erythema nodosum migrans, having regard to the aetiological factors of the eruption, various clinical data, and the results of the X-ray and laboratory examinations? (5) What are the possibilities for the pathomechanisms of EN?'

Main headings include: definition of EN; historical review; purpose of the study; materials, methods and diagnostic criteria; results and discussion; general discussion; summary and references (192 in number). The concluding pages, particularly 54 and 55, contain some interesting observations of the likely pathogenesis of EN in sarcoidosis.

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