

## Reviews of Books, Booklets, and other Documents on Primary Health Care

Space precludes a full review or listing of all the published material we have received and which may be relevant to this subject, but we record here, if only briefly, a selection of those received during the past few years, which we hope will be of value.

*An Introduction to the Primary Health Care Approach in Developing Countries. A review with selected annotated references. Ross Institute Publication No 13, July, 1981 by Gill Walt and Patrick Vaughan*

This is a booklet of 61 pages, with index, covering material on PHC under the following headings: health and development; health service planning and organization; manpower planning and training; pharmaceutical policy; community participation; traditional medicine; intersectoral effects; delivering Primary Health Care (PHC), the components. The entries are mainly from publications since 1975 and are selected '... with a view to illustrating the many facets of health and development that the PHC approach encompasses.' This is essential reading for anyone concerned with PHC. It is available from the Evaluation and Planning Centre, Ross Institute, Keppel (Gower) Street, London WC1E 7HT. Price £2.00 plus postage.

*MEDEX Primary Health Care Series; an overview; The John Burns School of Medicine, The University of Hawaii, Honolulu, USA*

This is a paperback booklet of 32 pages describing '... the MEDEX approaches and materials for PHC development contained in 43 companion modules and manuals.' Ministry of Health officials in Micronesia,

Thailand, Guyana, Pakistan and Lesotho have adapted and used various versions of the approaches and materials in their PHC programmes. A much larger loose-leaf document of 261 pages is also available from this centre entitled '*Manpower and Systems Development for PHC*', which is a synopsis of approaches, prototype materials, adaptation methods and samples of country adaptations. It is dated June 1981 and gives an extremely detailed account of the approaches used.

### Publications from WHO

These are obviously too numerous to record in detail but the following selection may be helpful

1. *Primary Health Care*; a joint report by the Director General of the WHO and the Executive Director of the United Nations Children's Fund. International Conference on Primary Health Care, Alma-Ata, USSR, 6–12 September, 1978.
2. *On Being in Charge*; a guide for middle-level management in PHC, 1980.
3. *The Primary Health Worker*. Revised Edition. Working guide; guidelines for training; guidelines for adaptation, 1980.
4. *Reference Material for Health Auxiliaries and their Teachers*, 1976.
5. *Appropriate Technology for Health Directory*, 1978.
6. *National Decision-making for PHC*; a study by the UNICEF/WHO Joint Committee on Health Policy, 1981.
7. *Educational Handbook for Health Personnel*, 1981.

8. *Teaching for Better Learning*; a guide for teachers of PHC staff, 1980.
9. *Leprosy Control and PHC*. WHO document; 5 pages A4 size; LEP/WP/76.8.
10. *The Village Health Worker; Lackey or Liberator?* by David Werner, in Round Table, World Health Forum, *Volume 2*, Number 1, 1981, page 46.

**CONTACT; Christian Medical Commission; World Council of Churches. Number 57, August 1980**

This number is devoted to 'The Village Health Care Programmes; community-supportive or community-oppressive?' and is an examination of rural health programmes in Latin America by David Werner. Both this, and the CONTACT *Special Series* Number 1 of April 1979 on the *Principles and Practice of PHC* are vital reading for anyone interested in this subject.

**Central African Journal of Medicine; 'PHC in the Medical School', by Tony Waterston of the Department of Paediatrics and Child Health in the University of Zimbabwe**

Printed in *Volume 28*, Number 1 of January 1982, this article is an important contribution to the subject, which highlights the imperative need to educate medical students in the PHC approach in order to produce doctors who are orientated to the health needs of the community.

**Tuberculosis Control through PHC, by K S Sanjivi**

This paper was presented at the Silver Jubilee Symposium of the Tuberculosis Research Centre, Madras, India, December 1981 and emphasizes the value in tuberculosis of the PHC worker - '... the person who, for the first time in the history of health care delivery organization, is constantly available within a community of 200 families/1,000 population...'. Data are included to support improvement in case-finding and case-holding since PHC workers were introduced (Available from the author at the above address).

**Médecine Tropicale; 'The doctor and PHC'**

In Volume 41, Number 4, July-August 1981, Dr G Fournier reviews the needs of PHC in developing countries, giving emphasis to the urgent need for doctors to change their attitude and to take on actively and positively, a role in community and public health.

**Leprosy Control Services as an Integral Part of PHC Programs in Developing Countries by Horst Buchmann, 1978**

This unique paperback of 78 pages has already been reviewed in a previous issue of this journal, but remains the one outstandingly good text on Leprosy and Primary Health. It is unrivalled in its breadth of concept and invaluable as a source of almost all the really important references to this combined subject. (Printed by the German Leprosy Relief Association (Postfach 348, D 8700 Würzburg, West Germany).)

**Pakistan; A Guide to Health; National Basic Health Services Cell**

This is a 382-pp paperback training manual for community health workers, printed in 1980 and well presented under the following main headings; working with villagers for a community health programme, management of diarrhoea, nutrition; healthy living practices; first aid; immunization; common clinical problems; clean and safe normal delivery; family planning (Although obviously giving emphasis to a range of subjects other than transmissible diseases, the general approach and format of presentation are admirable and worth study.) (Published by the Ministry of Health, The Government of Pakistan.)

**AHRTAG: PHC in Developing Countries; a Directory of Resources in the United Kingdom, 1982**

This is a document of 25 pages on A4 size paper from AHRTAG, 85 Marylebone High Street, London W1M 3DE, listing agencies which are able to provide information and material on various aspects of PHC in developing countries. They are as follows: African Medical and Research Foundation

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(AMREF); Appropriate Health Resources and Technologies Action Group (AHRTAG); BLAT Centre for Health and Medical Education (British Life Assurance Trust); The British Leprosy Relief Association (LEPRA); British Red Cross Society; Catholic Institute for International Relations (CIIR); Centre for Development Studies, University College, Swansea; Commonwealth Nurses Federation; Department of Child Life and Health, Edinburgh University; Health Education Materials Information Service (HEMIS); Hospital for Tropical Diseases; International Contraception, Abortion and Sterilization Campaign (ICASC); International Disaster Institute (IDI); International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF); The Leprosy Mission; Liverpool

School of Tropical Medicine; London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine – Department of Human Nutrition, Evaluation and Planning Centre for Health Care, Ross Institute of Tropical Hygiene; Moorfields Eye Hospital, Department of Preventive Ophthalmology; OXFAM; Returned Volunteer Action (RVA); The Save the Children Fund; Tear Fund; Tropical Child Health Unit, Institute of Child Health; UK Committee for UNICEF; United Nations Information Centre; University of London Institute of Education Library; War on Want; The Wellcome Institute for the History of Medicine Library; Westminster Medical Library; World Community Development Service.