

Book Reviews

Common Skin Diseases in Malawi and their Management, by V Gooskens. Department of Dermatology, Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Blantyre, Malawi, 1979. Production supported by the Netherlands Government.

This is a 67-page paperback booklet 'for use in health centres and hospitals by medical assistants, clinical officers and doctors'. The chapter headings include: anatomy; functions and examination of the skin; the very common skin diseases; other common and not so common skin diseases; drugs for local application; closing words and useful addresses. Pages 13 and 14 contain a chart on which it is possible to correlate dermatological lesions such as macules, papules, bullae, excoriations, etc. with a range of diseases ranging through the alphabet from acne to vitiligo. Colour plates of high quality illustrate dermatitis, photo-allergic contact dermatitis, infective dermatitis, acneiform contact dermatitis, scabies, impetigo, candida-paronychia, type 1 lepra reaction, pellagra, onchocerciasis, fixed drug eruption and Kaposi sarcoma. This is a well-constructed booklet with potential value in the diagnosis and management of skin diseases not only in Malawi, but in many other countries of Africa. [Current availability uncertain, but enquiries to Revd P Garland, LEpra, PO Box 496, Blantyre, Malawi.]

The Social Dimension of Leprosy; training manual for health workers, by Alicia Kaufmann, Sister Senkenesh Gebre Mariam and Jane Neville. Published by the International Federation of Anti-Leprosy Associations, London, 1981.

Professor K F Schaller, President of the ILEP Medical Commission writes the Foreword to this excellent publication, the main headings of which are: the case method to solve social problems; social concepts to analyse cases; patients, staff and stages of illness; communication skills in leprosy control and clues for case studies. This is an extremely well-presented and up-to-date account of the subject which deserves wide circulation. From ILEP, 234 Blythe Road, London W14 0HJ.

WHO; Chemotherapy of leprosy for control programmes. Technical Report Series 675, 1982.

This report of a study group, published in the *Technical Report Series* by WHO in Geneva, will be considered in detail in editorials in this journal in 1983 and the purpose of this note is merely to draw attention to its availability now, and to emphasize the crucial importance of the combined regimens advised. Following a review of the problems of dapsone resistance and persistence, the main headings are: drugs for multi-drug regimens; recommended chemotherapeutic regimens, operational aspects and research needs. WHO, 1211 Geneva 27, Switzerland.

Studies on Leprosy. Research Publication; Voluntary Health Services Medical Centre, Madras India.

This is a 120-page paperback by Dr N Veeraraghavan of the Research Unit on Leprosy, VHS Medical Centre, Adyar,

Madras-600 113, India, published in March 1982. Although this work covers many aspects of leprosy, including microbiology, host cells, immunology, drug testing, the armadillo and a vaccine, it is essentially aimed at the presentation of the author's studies on the *in vitro* growth of *M. leprae* (and *M. tuberculosis*). Whilst admiring the enthusiasm and enormous amount of work which has clearly gone into this publication it seems regrettable that the forthright claims to culture of the leprosy bacillus have not been presented in the medical press for expert comment and examination.

The Unquiet Eye: a diagnostic guide, by A J Bron, Reader in Ophthalmology in the University of Oxford. Glaxo Laboratories Ltd.

This is a paperback of 97 pages published 'as a service to doctors' in May 1981. It has 83 colour plates, illustrating – mainly for the general practitioner – a wide range of conditions which can be recognized and diagnosed, and then either treated by him or referred for specialist advice. The main sections include: a guide to techniques; interpretation of symptoms and signs; dry eye; ocular trauma; subconjunctival haemorrhage; conjunctivitis; keratitis; anterior uveitis; angle closure glaucoma; episcleritis and scleritis; the red eye with proptosis; the red lid; summary of treatment; ocular screening by the general practitioner; anatomy; list of useful diag-

nostic equipment and glossary. Available from Glaxo Laboratories Ltd, Greenford, Middlesex UB6 0HE, England.

Modern Genetic Concepts and Techniques in the Study of Parasites, Proceedings of the Symposium held in Geneva, 27–29 May 1980. 1981. 448 pages, 84 illustr, Hardbound Fr. 56.-- / DM 67.--. Published by Schwabe + Co, AG, Basel. *Note*: copies are available free of charge to institutions and scientists in the developing endemic countries on request from the Office of the Director of the Special Programme, 1211 Geneva, 27, Switzerland.

The meeting focused on basic molecular biology and genetics including the genetics of coexistence of parasites and man, genetic control of host response, susceptibility, resistance to infection, and genetic bases of variability in host response to infection. Hybridoma technology for production of monoclonal antibodies to parasite antigens, nucleic acid hybridization techniques for production of DNA probes and the use of recombinant DNA technology for production of large amounts of relevant antigens for diagnostic purposes and development of candidate vaccines were discussed. (Chapter 20, page 387 onwards is entirely devoted to *Genetic Aspects of Leprosy* by Morten Harboe, University of Oslo.)

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