

## **Domiciliary and Field Work**

### **Teaching Guide for Para-medical Workers in Leprosy, Volumes I and II**

Writing with all the benefit of his experience in the leprosy treatment and health education programme in Calcutta, Dr Chaudhury (Editor) has produced a comprehensive guide in two volumes. Volume I (78 pp.) deals with virtually all aspects of leprosy and its control; Volume II with communicable diseases, public health, anatomy, physiology, the microscope and an exercise in health education in leprosy. Some of the recommendations and recorded usage of drugs for the bacillary infection in leprosy (Vol. I, pp. 32–4) will not meet with universal acceptance, but it must be acknowledged that they have proved valuable in the circumstances for which these excellent books have been written. To some extent they have, however, also been overtaken by recent WHO advice on multiple drug regimens, but this can probably be adjusted in future editions. We congratulate Dr Chaudhury and his colleagues on the production of this guide and wish it every success. The above two volumes are published by the Greater Calcutta Leprosy Treatment and Health Education Scheme (May 1982). Price 10 rupees (U.S. \$2).

### **Tuberculosis: WHO and IUAT. ‘Defeat TB now and forever’**

Press release WHO/4 of 5 February 1982 begins as follows:

One hundred years after Robert Koch discovered the tuberculosis bacillus, the number of TB cases in the world is actually still increasing; yet the means exist to eliminate this disease as a major health problem by the year 2000. Writing in the current issue of *World Health*, the illustrated magazine of WHO, Dr Halfdan Mahler, Director-General of the Organization, says: ‘For more than 30 years, highly effective drugs and vaccine have been available, making TB a preventable and curable disease. Technologically sound strategies to prevent, detect and cure TB were gradually perfected. But progress has been agonizingly slow. In the majority of developing countries, there has been little or no improvement in the epidemiological situation. Between four and five million highly infectious cases emerge each year, and TB brings death to at least three million persons annually.’

Dr Mahler suggests that the Centenary of Koch’s discovery should be dedicated to appraising the strategies for TB control. ‘We should courageously admit the many mistakes of the past and make a new commitment to eliminate TB as a major health problem, at the latest by the year 2000. This goal is fully attainable, but to attain it requires a better understanding of the true causes of the genesis and spread of the disease.’

The International Union Against Tuberculosis (3 Rue Georges Ville, 75116, Paris) has produced a number of supportive documents and posters for this theme. The issue of *World Health* referred to above (January 1982) contains material and photographs of exceptional interest, including a review of the early work of Robert Koch.

### **Teaching techniques in leprosy**

The October 1981 issue of the *Monthly News Bulletin of the Hind Kush Nivaran Sangh* (Indian Leprosy Association, 1 Red Cross Road, New Delhi 110001, India) carries a section on teaching techniques in leprosy. This was developed from a WHO workshop held in the Central Jalma Institute for Leprosy in Agra, and the following were the main headings: (1) Integration of leprosy with the general health service. (2) Curriculum of general medical subjects. (3) Methods of case detection. (4) Surgical problems in the field. (5) Methods of health education.

### **ATH Newsletter, WHO**

In view of recent publications in this journal on Primary Health Care, Number 10 of the *Appropriate Technology for Health Newsletter* is of interest; it is over 20 pages long and is devoted entirely to the subject of health education methods and materials in PHC. The Newsletter is well worth reading regularly by those in domiciliary and field work and is obtainable free from *Appropriate Technology for Health*, Division of Strengthening of Health Services, WHO, 1211 Geneva, 27 Switzerland.

### **Least Developed Countries: listing by United Nations**

In the *WHO Chronicle*, Volume 35, 1981, appears the following list of countries designated by the United Nations as least developed.

In *Africa*: Benin, Botswana, Burundi, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Ethiopia, Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Lesotho, Malawi, Mali, Niger, Rwanda, Somalia, Sudan, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, and Upper Volta. In *Asia and Oceania*: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Democratic Yemen, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Maldives, Nepal, Samoa, and Yemen. In the *Americas*: Haiti.

The article also includes a table of health and related socio-economic conditions for 'least developed', other 'developing' countries and 'developed' countries.

### **INSA in India: Rural Health and Development Trainers' Programme**

Mrs Sujatha de Magry, Programme Director of INSA (International Nursing Services Association) has written to inform us that the first course for this programme started in June 1982; of the 15 participants, 4 were from institutions treating leprosy. The background to this initiative is as follows:

The International Nursing Services Association is a registered organisation in Atlanta, U.S.A. with affiliation to the Georgia State University. From 1973 it has offered intensive three-month inservice education programmes at Atlanta for nurses from the developing countries. In 1980 INSA Faculty members visited India to follow up some of the INSA graduates and to conduct a series of workshops, discussions and visits. During this time nurses, heads of institutions and government personnel expressed the need for training programmes that would prepare nurses for implementing and developing comprehensive community health programmes. This resulted in setting up a training programme for 'Rural Health and Development Trainers' Programme' in Bangalore, India.

The purpose of this programme is to prepare indigenous registered nurses, auxiliary nurses, and other para-medical personnel to be trainers of village health workers and managers of local health and development projects in India.

(Although on a limited scale, and of necessity somewhat slow in development, the success of a similar approach by Mrs Sujatha de Magry in various South India projects supported by OXFAM in recent years, suggests that these courses by INSA/INDIA should be worthy of considerable attention. There is already some evidence to support the idea that this approach, rather than that of the conventionally planned health service, may produce results of great practical value, at relatively low cost.) Address: INSA/INDIA, Rural Health and Development Trainers' Programme, 2 Benson Road, Benson Town, Bangalore, 560-046, India.

### **Korean Leprosy Association: Technical Handbook for Leprosy Service, 1982**

This little handbook, 10 × 15 cm, has recently been issued by the Korean Leprosy Association and is available on application to Dr Do-II Kim, Director, Institute for Leprosy Research, Korean Leprosy Association, Anyang, PO Box 27, Kyeonggi-do, Korea. There are 40 pages, with virtually no 'text' in the usual sense, but many tables and diagrams. They cover all those aspects of leprosy which are essentially practical and related to field work, including an up-to-date account of the recent (1982) WHO recommendations on multiple chemotherapy. This is a remarkable (and unique) effort; it is a 'pocket' book of potentially great value. The small print is presumably unavoidable in view of its dimensions and the amount of subject matter covered, but—for the purpose intended—there can be few other points of criticism. Dr Do-II Kim and the Association are to be congratulated on the production of this handbook, which may well prove useful in other countries.

### **Carville, USA: Audio-visual Loan Programme**

The August 1982 issue of *International Health News*, published by the National Council for International Health, Suite 303, 212 Virginia Avenue, NW Washington DC 20037, U.S.A., carries the following piece of information:

A primary function of the National Hansen's Disease Center is to promote an increased awareness of Hansen's disease within the health and medical communities. Accordingly, the Center has instituted an audiovisual loan program by which instructional materials produced for inhouse use—including slide series with tapescripts, videocassettes, and audiotapes—may be loaned to other medical and educational institutions for teaching purposes. Materials are loaned at no cost for a period of two weeks.

For a listing of materials available, contact Dr R J O'Connor, Director of Education and Training, National Hansen's Disease Center, Carville, LA70721, or call (504) 642-7771.

[*Ed. Note:* Dr O'Connor is interested in hearing from anyone with experience in the successful use of video in medical education programs overseas, especially in developing countries. The National Hansen's Disease Center makes use of it at Carville in teaching medical personnel about leprosy, and it is expected that others have had comparable success. Readers are encouraged to contact Dr O'Connor regarding video usage at the above address. He is also currently involved in a project attempting to interface a microcomputer with a videocassette player. He indicates that this combination of computer and video technologies, now possible because of advances in microelectronics, opens up an entirely new type of educational methodology—one which is ideally suited to continuing medical education.]