

## Domiciliary and Field Work

### **Ethiopia; Manual for multiple drug therapy, 1983**

This manual was produced by the Leprosy Documentation Service (INFOLEP) in Amsterdam in December 1983. The main text is only 20 pages long, but there are extensive appendices. The chapter headings read: 1 Introduction; 2 Categories of patients; 3 Need for release from treatment (RFT) before MDT is introduced; 4 Criteria for release from treatment of patients who have already been treated for many years; 5 Diagnosis and classification of new patients; 6 Registration of new and old patients for MDT; 7 The multiple drug regimens; 8 Procedures during treatment; 9 Slit-skin smears; 10 Side-effects of the drugs and complications; 11 Duration of the treatment; 12 Follow-up after Release from Treatment; 13 Retreatment; 14 Reporting; and 15 Evaluation of the completion of MDT.

The Appendices are: I Leprosy Control Patient Record Card with instructions; II The Leprosy Treatment Register; III The Central Register; IVa Quarterly Report Leprosy Patients; IVb Annual Report Leprosy Patients; V Quarterly Report of Patients on MDT; VI Six-monthly Cohort Report on the Completion of Treatment of Paucibacillary patients; VIIa Six-monthly Cohort Report on the Completion of Treatment of Multibacillary Patients; VIIb Annual Report on the Completion of Treatment of Multibacillary Patients; VIIIa Taking and fixing of slit-skin smears; VIIIb Skin Smears Services Request and Result list; VIIIc Quality Control Skin Smears Service; IX Account of receipts and issues of leprosy drugs; X Transfer and Referral of Leprosy Patients; XI Possible side-effects of Leprosy Drugs; XII Relapse, Reaction and Reactivation; XIII List of code numbers of Regions and Awrajas.

This manual which was one of the first of its kind, is also one of the best; it is extremely well thought-out and detailed and it bears the hallmarks of a combined authorship of considerable experience. In the light of new knowledge gained during the implementation of MDT since 1983, we understand that new versions, for both the National Leprosy Control Programme and the ALERT Leprosy Control Programme in the Shoa Province, are under consideration. Enquiries to Leprosy Documentation Service (INFOLEP), Royal Tropical Institute, Mauritskade 63, NL 1092, AD, Amsterdam, The Netherlands.

### **Teaching and learning in leprosy. Leprosy Documentation Service, Amsterdam**

This well-produced, ring-bound volume is a guide to the material available on this topic. The Introduction reads: 'An attempt has been made to give as broad a picture as possible with respect to language, subject aspects of leprosy, types of printed material, and groups of leprosy workers (ranging from research workers to junior health staff).'

Also included is a description of the ILA Workshop on Teaching and Training held in New Delhi in 1984; recommended materials; planning and production of individual items of teaching/learning materials; and a list of materials that are available in some 28 languages. Price: \$5.00

Further details are available from: Leprosy Documentation Service (INFOLEP), Royal Tropical Institute, Mauritskade 63, 1092 AD Amsterdam, The Netherlands.

### **Vice-President of India visits remote leprosy centre**

The Vice-President of India Mr R Venkataraman's visit to Kasturba Kushta Nivaran Nilayam, Malavanthangal, South Arcot District marked 40 years of leprosy relief and control service. In his welcoming address Professor Jagadisan told of how the prevalence of leprosy has dropped in the last four decades 48 per thousand to 5 per thousand. He went on to say that now the incidence of leprosy was much lower the Institution is being transformed from a leprosy centre to a rural health and development centre - primary health care, prevention of blindness, eye camps and dental care being the essential components. The facilities, once only for leprosy patients, are now being opened to non-leprosy boys and girls, e.g. spinning, weaving and tailoring training units, furthering the integration of leprosy patients with others of the community.

### **Dr Raghavendra Row Memorial Teaching Programme in Leprosy, 1985. Acworth Leprosy Hospital**

The one-day programme for this year held in Bombay was devoted to the teaching of the pathology of leprosy to a small group of pathology post-graduate students. It was held at the Department of Pathology, Grant Medical College, and Dr C J G Chacko was the guest teacher.

A special feature of the programme was that after being introduced to the basis of the immunopathologic classification of leprosy each participant was presented with a set of histology slides of skin and nerve for individual study and evaluation. The teachers then demonstrated features of note and answered questions. Dr R V Bapat also spoke briefly about recent developments in the immunology and microbiology of leprosy.

The participants were asked to evaluate (anonymously) the day's programme. All of them expressed their satisfaction with the plan of teaching and said that they had benefited from the histology teaching.

The suggestions made included: (a) an extended programme of 2 days, (b) more participants, (c) practicals in staining of

bacilli in sections and smears, and (d) attention to leprosy lesions in other tissues. Many felt that a concentrated pathology teaching programme should be made an annual event.

### **Books by post, Intermediate Technology Development Group**

This organization, an independent charity, aims 'to help people work themselves out of poverty by providing information, advice and assistance on the choice of appropriate technologies. For these technologies to be accessible to those who need them most, they must be relatively small, cheap and simple to use. They must make the best use of readily available local skills, and resources, and minimize the demands on scarce and imported resources.'

Leaflets about the work of ITDG are available on request. In the 1984-5 *Books by Post Catalogue* some of the titles included under 'Health' are: *Auxiliaries in primary health care, Helping health workers learn, Low cost aids, and Primary child care.*

Intermediate Technology Development Group Ltd, 9 King Street, Covent Garden, London WC2E 8HW, United Kingdom.

### **Centre for Educational Development in Health, Arusha, Tanzania**

This Centre came into being in October 1982 as a result of the Ministry of Health of Tanzania and voluntary agencies recognizing a need to establish a mechanism which would ensure that investments and activities would really contribute to primary health care, which the Ministry has adopted as their key strategy for obtaining WHO's goal of Health for All by Year 2000. The functions of the Centre include: 'development of curricula, production of books, teaching materials and aids, training of teachers, research, and the organization of short courses and seminars to provide continuing education for teachers and health workers of all categories'.

The Centre offers a one-year Diploma of Health Personnel Education course for all teachers of the health professions. The emphasis is on the practical implications of how to provide good and relevant training for health workers in primary health care settings.

For further details of this and other courses and services please write to: The Principal, Ministry of Health, Centre for Educational Development in Health, Arusha, (CEDHA), PO Box 1162, Arusha, Tanzania.

### **Instant slides**

Polaroid have now developed a system which produces mounted 35 mm slides within minutes of photographing a subject. Use any of the following films, colour, high contrast black and white, or continuous tone black and white, together with a developing pack (one is issued with every film).

For further details please write to: Customer Service, 35 mm, Polaroid (UK) Ltd, Ashley Road, St Albans, Herts AL1 5PR, England.

### **Leprosy lesions in skins of different colours, TALC**

This 24-slide set (2 lesions shown on each slide) provides a wide spectrum of types of leprosy lesions, which are basically typical of the various key points on the Ridley-Jopling spectrum, as seen in different coloured skins. The colours range from pale Chinese to dark Indian. There is also an accompanying tape which provides a clinical description of the various lesions seen in leprosy. This slide set is perhaps most useful to those working in South East Asia and is also a supplement to the TALC sets on 'Leprosy and childhood' and 'Classification of leprosy'.

For full details of these and other publications (slide sets, books and flannelgraphs) write to: Teaching Aids at Low Cost, PO Box 49, St Albans, Herts AL1 4AX, United Kingdom.

### **Formation of Karnataka State Anti-Leprosy Council, India**

This body has been formed to promote anti-leprosy work in the State of Karnataka. It is their experience that stimulation of such work comes from independent bodies. The Council will be actively working in the leprosy field but will work through existing agencies. It will therefore not be a burden to the Government or Voluntary Agencies. The President Dr M S Nilkanta Rao has issued a letter giving the reasons for forming the council, and its primary object; 'To improve the anti-leprosy work in the State—both governmental and voluntary—by all scientific means.'

Further details are available from the President, Karnataka State Anti-Leprosy Council, No. 16 Hutchins Road, Bangalore-560 005, India.

### **Histopathology Services for Developing Countries**

For the last 15 years the Department of Histopathology at St Thomas' Hospital has provided a free, postal, diagnostic service for a number of hospitals, both government and mission, in developing countries. It was originally envisaged that the need for such services would decrease as they were built up locally. For a variety of reasons, differing from country to country, this has not happened and the need is still there and likely to continue. To meet these problems and to provide histopathological expertise in parasitic, communicable and other tropical disease in the UK a consultant histopathologist post has been created jointly with the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine and University College Hospital Medical School. This post has been filled by the appointment of Dr S B Lucas who has spent 2 of the last 4 years in this unit and who is keen to maintain or increase diagnostic services, including leprosy histopathology. Specimens should be sent to Dr S B Lucas, Department of Histopathology, School of Medicine, University College London, University Street, London WC1. (Tel: 01-387-9300.)