

## Book Reviews

**Leprosy in Malaysia: past, present and future.** A Joshua-Raghavar, published from Sungai Buloh, Selangor, West Malaysia, 1983.

This is a book of 22 pages, plus substantial appendices, written by a secondary school teacher in Malaysia, who himself contracted leprosy in 1932. It is a detailed and comprehensive account of leprosy in Malaysia, including: Introduction; The Early Period up to World War II; The Era of Segregation; Developments in the Post World War II Period; Leprosy Control; Post-War Developments in the Social and Economic Fields; the Present; the Future; Human Aspects and Appendices. There are excellent illustrations in black and white and an extensive bibliography. In the UK, copies are available on application to Dr R J W Rees, Clinical Research Centre, Watford Road, Harrow, Middlesex, HA1 3UJ.

**Leprosy in the Light Skin; an illustrated manual.** D L Leiker and E Nunzi, published by Associazione Italiana 'Amici di Raoul Follereau', Organizzazione per la Cooperazione Sanitaria Internazionale, OCSI, Via Borselli, 4, 40135, Bologna, Italy. Received 1985.

This is a superbly produced hardback book of 199 pages, with over 300 colour prints covering virtually all aspects of leprosy on the skin. The written text covers definition, bacteriology, epidemiology, immunology, symptomatology, diagnosis, classification, reactions, complications, differential diagnosis, treatment, education of patients, contact examination, prophylaxis, employment of patients. There is also a selected list of references and useful addresses. The colour photography and the quality of reproduction are extremely high. This book should be of great value to leprologists and dermatologists dealing with leprosy in North America, Europe, China, the Far East, Philippines and other parts of the leprosy-endemic world where leprosy has to be recognized in patients with light skin. Enquiries to the above address. Price \$30 (US) to include air mail postage.

**Hansenologia; Dermatologia Tropical.** Sinesio Talhari and René Garrido Neves, published in Manaus, Brasil, 1984.

This is a strongly-bound paperback of 102 pages plus bibliography, containing a large number of prints, mainly in black and white, but also in colour. It is written in Portuguese only, with the intention of '... helping general practitioners, students of medicine and even dermatologists in the diagnosis and treatment of leprosy'. Sinesio Talhari is titular professor of dermatology in the 'Fundacao Universidade do Amazonas' and René Neves is professor of dermatology in the

'Universidade Federal Fluminense' in Niteroi in the State of Rio de Janeiro. The numerous black and white plates are of high quality and illustrate most aspects of the disease extremely well. This text should be easily understood by Spanish-speaking readers and it will surely be of the greatest value in South America, and perhaps in other parts of the world also. Price \$12.00 (US). Apply to Clinica de Dermatologia Tropical, Av. Japurá 572, 69.000, Manaus-Am-Brasil, South America.

**Leprosy in Africans.** W K Jacyk, published by the German Leprosy Relief Association, D-8700, Wurzburg 11, Dominikanerplatz 4, West Germany, 1983.

This is a strongly-bound paperback booklet of 52 pages with an equal number of very good quality colour prints showing leprosy on the African skin, together with some pictures of conditions other than leprosy by way of differential diagnosis. There is no formal text, but each picture has a brief description. The excellent photographs were originally taken mainly for teaching purposes in the Department of Medicine in Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria/Nigeria.

It should be carefully noted that there are a few errors in the captions:

Page 16: the number 16 and the description are correct, but the photograph should be that shown on page 35.

Page 35: reverse situation; the number and title are correct, but the correct photograph should be that shown on page 16.

Page 32: the photograph is upside down.

Apply to DAHW at the above address.

**Management of Paralytic Deformities in Leprosy.** J G Andersen and J W Brandsma, All Africa Leprosy and Rehabilitation Training Centre, PO Box 165, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, received 1984. Price \$10.00 (US), including mailing.

This is a strongly-bound paperback of 109 pages written by two highly experienced workers in ALERT on a matter of great importance. Their aim, as explained in the Introduction

has been to produce an introduction to reconstructive surgery as it applies to the sequels of peripheral nerve damage in leprosy. The primary target groups are trainee surgeons and physiotherapists. The main headings include: Nerve damage in leprosy; Surgical considerations and priorities; Paralytic deformities of the face; Physiotherapy for paralysed eyelid muscles; Paralytic deformities of the hand; Secondary effects of ulnar and median paralysis; Exercises for the paralysed hand; Handsurgery pre-operative assessment; Paralytic deformities of the foot; Pre-operative Physio-

therapy. There is a selected bibliography. Enquiries to the above address.

**Surgical Reconstruction and Rehabilitation in Leprosy.** E P Fritschi, Schieffelin Leprosy Research and Training Centre, Karigiri, North Arcot District, Tamil Nadu, India, Pin. 632 105.

This is a strongly-bound paperback of 320 pages, including index, by the Director and Consultant Surgeon of the SLRT, published by The Director for Southern Asia, The Leprosy Mission, New Delhi, India. This is a second edition, dated 1984, the first having been in 1971. The chapter headings include: General principles of surgical reconstruction in leprosy; Peripheral neuritis in leprosy; The examination of the hand; The restoration of finger function; The management of miscellaneous contractures and deformities of the fingers; The restoration of thumb function—pinch and grasp; The triple nerve lesion; The surgery of facial deformity; Miscellaneous surgical conditions; The foot; Ulcers of the foot and their sequelae; Footwear for anaesthetic feet; Physiotherapy and Rehabilitation. The price in India is Rs 45 (approximately \$3.00 US). Available from Director for Southern Asia, The Leprosy Mission, 4th Floor, Sheetla House, 73 74 Nehru Place, New Delhi 110 019.

**Guidelines for Tuberculosis Control Programmes in Developing Countries. An OXFAM Memorandum.** OXFAM Practical Guide No. 4. Paul Shears, the OXFAM Health Unit, 1985.

This is a strongly-bound paperback of 59 pages, including 7 appendices, produced by the OXFAM Health Unit, 274 Banbury Road, Oxford OX2 7DZ, at £1.50 per copy. The Introduction draws attention to the fact that a review of most tuberculosis control programmes in developing countries shows that we are currently achieving less than 50% success in treating patients with tuberculosis, and are even less successful in reducing the overall prevalence of the disease. This low success rate is attributed to difficulties in implementation at the district and village level and this manual has been written 'to assist health workers and project leaders at this level, working in conjunction with the national TB control programme.' The 16 chapter headings are as follows: Introduction; Difficulties of TB control; Some examples from the field; Basic pathology and epidemiology of TB; Principles of control; Involving the community; Establishing the size of the TB problem in your community; Planning an appropriate TB control programme; BCG vaccination programme; Case-finding; Principles of drug treatment; Problems of drug treatment; Resistance, default or poor compliance; Monitoring and evaluating the programme; TB programmes in special situations; TB in children and non-pulmonary TB in adults; The role of development programmes in reducing the TB problem; Funding TB control programmes. There are also appendices on methods of tuberculin surveys, sputum microscopy, drug dosages, drug adverse effects, drugs for resistant cases, measuring drug compliance, useful addresses and further reading.

This booklet fills a gap which has been outstanding for many years and it will surely be invaluable to those responsible for tuberculosis control in the field of developing countries. Apply to OXFAM at the address above.

A. C. McDOUGALL.

**New approaches to the identification of parasites and their vectors.** B N Newton and F Michal. Tropical Diseases Research Series 5, Schwabe, Basel, 1984.

This book is the proceedings of a symposium on the application of biochemical and molecular biology techniques to problems of parasite and vector identification held in November 1982. The parasites covered are the causative organisms of 5 of the diseases which fall within the mandate of the UNDP/World Bank/WHO special programme namely malaria, African and American trypanosomiasis, filariasis, (including onchocerciasis), the leishmaniasis and schistosomiasis. Leprosy is the 6th disease in the programme but was not covered in this symposium. It was felt by the participants that better methods of characterizing organisms which are morphologically identical but which differ quite markedly in their epidemiological significance are needed. It was emphasized that the various sophisticated technologies currently being used in research laboratories must be made applicable for use in the field. The techniques covered include enzyme electrophoresis, the use of monoclonal antibodies and DNA probes, the study of polytene chromosomes of dipteran vectors of disease and the biochemical analysis of cuticular hydrocarbons of insect vectors.

It is customary when introducing work on parasite or vector taxonomy to take it as axiomatic that correct classification is fundamental to efficient control. However, there is a shortage of examples where fine distinctions in taxonomy have actually led to a change in what control programmes can do. There may even be a tendency for the enthusiasm of laboratory biologists for their techniques to lead them to produce answers before finding out whether the questions matter. A useful directory to the questions in this field which do matter is given by G S Nelson. For example, he refers to the need for a better method for identifying malarial sporozoites in mosquitoes (which will become crucial in the field testing of transmission-blocking vaccines) and the monoclonal antibody method now becoming available to ease this problem. With regard to onchocerciasis, the papers by Nelson and Meredith both underline the importance of the difference between the blinding form of the worm *Onchocerca volvulus* which occurs in the West African savannah and the much less harmful parasite in the forest zone which nevertheless appears identical by normal microscopic methods. The distinction is crucial to the strategy of the current onchocerciasis control programme and in his chapter Omar reports a histochemical method by which the 2 forms of worm can apparently now be distinguished.

Rapid progress in parasite taxonomy is currently taking place and it is a pity that there was such a long delay in publishing these proceedings.

J. CURTIS and C. F. CURTIS