

Teaching Materials and Services

OXFAM: booklet on multiple drug therapy

The *OXFAM Practical Guide No. 3*, first published in 1984, with revisions in 1985 and 1987, as *Questions and Answers on the Implementation of Multiple Drug Therapy for Leprosy*. The new issue takes account of valuable comments received from various parts of the world and includes a short section on AIDS and appendices describing blister–calendar packs for paucibacillary and multibacillary leprosy. OXFAM, 274 Banbury Road, Oxford OX2 7DZ, England. A Portuguese version is available, and Spanish and French translations are under development.

WHO Publications

Tuberculosis control in primary health care

A recent publication from WHO entitled *Tuberculosis Control as an Integral Part of Primary Health Care* (Office of Publications, WHO, 1211 Geneva 27 Switzerland. Price: Sw. Fr. 9) carries the following summary on the back cover:

'The era of specialized health programmes, each aimed at a specific disease, is over. But while countries acknowledge the need to integrate various disease control activities into their general health services, the integration process is fraught with difficulty.

The aim of this book is to help the managers of primary health care programmes and of tuberculosis control programmes to achieve step-by-step integration, giving priority to case-finding and treatment. After a succinct presentation of what programme managers need to know about sputum smear examination and the pros and cons of different chemotherapy regimens, the book explains how to plan and organize tuberculosis control at the all-important district level. The main managerial tasks are set out, including the proper attention to training and motivation of programme staff, many of whom may have to make the difficult transition from a specialized tuberculosis programme to primary care. Readers are alerted to the conceptual and practical problems likely to be encountered, and the usefulness of health systems research in solving these problems is stressed. The book concludes with a look at external collaboration. Bilateral and multilateral funding can do much to support tuberculosis control in the developing world, for example through an international pool of essential anti-tuberculosis drugs, provided that countries are careful not to allow external support to distort the development of their general health systems based on primary care.'

[This is an important publication, virtually essential reading for anyone engaged in tuberculosis, leprosy or combined tuberculosis/leprosy control programmes. Pages 30–3, dealing with tuberculosis control activities at district level are of particular interest; nearly all the problems listed (for which no specific answers are attempted) also apply to leprosy.]

A guide to leprosy control. Second edition

This is the second edition of a guide covering virtually every technical and managerial consideration involved in the planning and operation of a leprosy control programme. The book has been thoroughly revised in an effort to help managers and field workers meet the new challenges resulting from the use of multidrug therapy. Guidelines and advice, whether concerning the performance of a technical operation or the overall objectives of control, take their authority from the proven capacity of multidrug therapy to prevent or cure drug resistance in all patients.

With chapters on: magnitude of the problem and geographical distribution; epidemiology; limitations of the classical control strategy based on dapsone monotherapy; case-finding; diagnosis and classification; treatment and patient care; reorganization of services and operational strategies for leprosy control; health education; training; urban leprosy control; social aspects and rehabilitation; evaluation; and planning and programme management.

Price Sw. fr. 23/US \$18.40. Pages, 122. Order No. 1152064.

Epidemiology of leprosy in relation to control

The above is a report of a WHO Study Group, Technical Report Series No. 716, and meets the need for practical guidance in monitoring the epidemiological impact of leprosy control procedures, particularly in light of the implementation of multidrug therapy. The opening sections review world data on both descriptive and analytical aspects of leprosy epidemiology in various contexts, including results from specific interventions such as chemotherapy and BCG immunization. The report also covers immunological methods useful in epidemiological studies, epidemiological indicators for measuring the impact of control methods and trends in disease dynamics, and operational indicators for monitoring control activities. A few simple essential measures for use as epidemiological and operational indicators are proposed as a minimum requirement for all leprosy control programmes based on multidrug therapy. The report also defines an additional set of indicators that should be used whenever possible.

Price: Sw. fr. 6/US \$4.80. Pages, 60. Order No. 1100716.

Chemotherapy of leprosy for control programmes

The above is also a report of a WHO Study Group, Technical Report Series No. 675, which proposes globally applicable regimens to treat the different groups of multibacillary patients and a further combined regimen designed for the short-term chemotherapy of paucibacillary patients. The report also recommends ways of overcoming the operational problems created by the move from dapsone monotherapy to the complexities of multidrug therapy.

Price: Sw. fr. 4/US \$3.20. Pages, 33. Order No. 1100675. The above three titles are available from: The Office of Publications, WHO, 1211 Geneva 27, Switzerland.

Combined seminars; London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine

Under the chairmanship of Professor K P W J McAdam, Head of Department of Clinical Sciences, an all-day seminar on leprosy was held on 13 April 1989 in the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, Keppel Street, London WC1E 7HT, for students in the MSc or DTM and H courses. The invited speakers (Colin McDougall, Sebastian Lucas, Keith McAdam, Michael Waters and Harold Wheate) covered the subjects of epidemiology, histopathology, immunology, vaccines, clinical features, therapy and leprosy control programmes in a series of short lectures. A written summary of each was distributed before the seminar, together with multiple choice questions suitable for inclusion in the examinations. The seminar was attended by over 100 students, as part of the core didactic teaching for MSc and DTM and H in London.

Diploma in Tuberculosis and Chest Diseases, Cardiff, UK

This diploma is offered by the University of Wales College of Medicine and the following is a synopsis of the course:

(a) In addition to the course of lectures covering the epidemiology of tuberculosis, bronchitis, pneumoconiosis and other chest conditions, particular attention is paid to the teaching of techniques for carrying out field surveys to measure the prevalence and attack-rate of such conditions. Detailed practical training is given in:

The technique of tuberculin testing and BCG vaccination.

The technique of doing simple pulmonary function tests suitable for field work.

The use of simple statistical techniques in planning surveys and evaluating their results.

(b) A course of lectures and demonstrations on the diagnosis and treatment of all chest diseases with particular reference to tuberculosis. This includes clinical instruction, radiology and physiological assessment, bacteriological and pathological diagnosis, medical and surgical treatment and rehabilitation. Facilities are given for the examination of patients in chest hospitals and clinics. There is also a short course of lectures on controlled therapeutic trials, and a series of lectures and demonstrations on radiography and nursing.

(c) A course of lecture-demonstrations on the pathology and bacteriology of chest diseases.

(d) A course of lectures and demonstrations on non-respiratory tuberculosis diseases.

(e) (1) Visits to industries to show the steps taken to reduce risks of pulmonary damage.

(2) Visits to rehabilitation centres.

Traditionally, one entire day (4 lectures) is devoted to the subject of leprosy. This is certainly the only course of its kind in the UK and one of the very few on tuberculosis available anywhere. Further information: The Departmental Secretary, Department of Tuberculosis and Chest Diseases, Llandough Hospital, Penarth, South Glamorgan, CF6 1XX, United Kingdom.