

Teaching Materials and Services; News and Notes

‘Tuberculosis and leprosy; evidence for interaction of disease’

The above is the title of a contribution by Keith Manchester in *Human paleopathology; current syntheses and future options*, eds D. J. Ortner & A. C. Aufderheide, 1991, and published by the Smithsonian Institution Press, Washington. This paper, ‘... seeks to review the history of tuberculosis and leprosy in antiquity and to consider the historic changing patterns within the concept of modern epidemiology and immunology’. The author, who has published extensively on the paleopathology of leprosy, reviews the bacteriology, immunology and epidemiology of the disease and then proceeds to review its history, with particular reference to findings in skeletons from burial sites. The concluding sections deal with the interaction between leprosy and tuberculosis through the ages, including a consideration of the influence of increasing urbanization on the latter and the possibility that the decline of leprosy may, at least to some extent, be linked to immunological and other changes due to the persistence of tuberculosis. There are 63 references. (Dr Keith Manchester’s address is: 66 Pollard Lane, Bradford, Yorkshire BD2 4RW, UK.)

Compact Disc of Leprosy Literature 1913–1991: Leprosy Research Foundation, USA

A copy of this compact disc has been supplied by Dr Ray Foster, a trustee of the Leprosy Research Foundation. It is accompanied with instructions on its content and use, which ‘represents the culmination of 10 years’ work collecting, keying-in and down-loading the world’s scientific literature on leprosy. The CD-ROM (read only memory) is a collection of 41,168 citations from 2874 books and journals. About half of the citations have abstracts; 8148 of the pre-1984 Tropical Disease Bulletin abstracts can be found in no other computer format except in the 1913–1991 leprosy compact disc ROM. This CD-ROM is being made available at the price of \$20.00 (to cover postage and handling) to any who would like to obtain it.

A folio with the disc gives full details of terminology, method of use and content. Contact: Dr Ray Foster, Leprosy Research Foundation, 11588 Lawton Court, Loma Linda, CA 92354, U.S.A.

Graves Educational Resources, change of address:

Please note that all orders for the purchase, hire or subscription of Graves programmes should be made to: Graves Medical Audiovisual Library, Concord Video & Film Council, 201 Felixstowe Road, Ipswich IP3 9BJ. Telephone: 0473 726012/715754; Fax: 0473 274531

After 1 April information relating to the sale, hire and subscription hire of our audiovisual programmes will be available from Ipswich.

The payment of invoices issued from Chelmsford should also be made to this address.

All enquiries other than those relating to the supply of audiovisual programmes should be made to Graves Educational Resources at the address below:

Graves Educational Resources, 220 New London Road, Chelmsford, Essex CM2 9BJ, UK. Phone: 0245 283351; Fax: 0245 354710.

India: Report of the 4th Independent Evaluation of the National Leprosy Eradication Programme

This Report gives a full account of the objectives, methodology observations, conclusions and recommendations of the 4th Independent Evaluation of the NLEP, which covered 24 of the states/union territories in December 1991. Copies are available from the Leprosy Division, Directorate of Health Services, Ministry of Health, New Delhi 110001, India. (See also, ‘National Strategy for the Elimination of Leprosy in India’ by B. N. Mittal, *Ind. J. Lepr*, **64**, 513–20.)

Learning for health

The following is taken from the Editor's letter:

Welcome to *Learning for Health*. This is the first issue of a newsletter that will be published every 6 months. We hope our readers will find it informative and useful. The Education Resource Group of the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine works in teacher training for health workers, training in health education/promotion and human resource development. *Learning for Health* will reflect these interests, and is for anyone working in these areas, particularly in developing countries. It is not an academic journal. Instead it will emphasize practical ideas to be used in our everyday situations, and the style will be simple and easy-to-read.

Learning for Health will not tell you what to do. One of the words which will often come up in these pages is 'facilitator'. This word literally means 'enabler', or someone who makes things easier. We may think of a teacher as someone who addresses a problem, gives the right answers and lays down correct actions. On the other hand a facilitator enables the learners first to sort out what the problem is, then agree for themselves how the problem should be tackled in their own situation. Jan Ritchie's article 'Communicating the Paradox' illustrates this, especially the story at the beginning.

You can contribute to *Learning for Health* through any of our regular features. One of these is CHES, or Community Health Education Support Service, which gives ideas on practical problems people write to us about. We welcome your enquiries. We would also like readers to write to us with their responses to the problems raised, which we can reprint in a Letters page.

Another regular feature is the 'Reviews' section, where again we welcome your contributions. Perhaps you have read a book, seen a video, or used a teaching aid which was especially useful. You can either review it yourself (we would need to see the item being reviewed too) or tell us about it so that someone else can review it.

There is also a regular 'Notes and News' section, so if you have announcements about training courses, conferences, new publications, or news items of interest, please let us know.

Address: Education Resource Group, Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine, Pembroke Place, Liverpool L3 5QA, UK.

Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine, UK

The Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine, a registered charity affiliated to the University of Liverpool, is one of the few postgraduate centres of excellence in the world in the field of tropical medicine and its allied disciplines. Its principal, inter-related functions are research, teaching, and consultative activities. The School is extensively involved in national and international programmes to control tropical disease and to develop effective health care systems. It has links with health ministries, universities and research institutions worldwide. The School has well-equipped, modern teaching and research facilities. There are 3 general lecture theatres, the largest of which accommodates 144 students, as well as several seminar rooms. The Dagnall Laboratory, equipped with a video microscope and overhead colour television monitors, provides bench space for up to 80 students and there are several smaller teaching and research laboratories. Teaching methods and course content are continuously evaluated and importance is attached to small group teaching wherever possible. The School also houses a computer laboratory and most courses include training in the use of computers, and statistical and epidemiological methods.

The School offers a number of courses leading to University of Liverpool degrees and diplomas, a series of School Certificate Courses and a number of Short Courses. Research facilities and training leading to the degree of MPhil or PhD can be offered in most major disciplines relating to tropical health. Current research covers the spectrum from molecular biology to health systems and operational field research. All tuition in the School is provided in English and students whose native language is not English must possess a suitable English Language qualification. For those wishing to improve their level of English, the English Language Unit in the University can provide full-time language tuition to overseas students prior to commencement of study as well as continuing part-time language support. English classes are also available for students' families.

Enquiries: Liverpool School of Tropical Hygiene, Pembroke Place, Liverpool L3 5QA, UK.

Need for social science inputs in leprosy eradication. Ninth Erwin Stindl Memorial Oration 1992

The above oration was given by Dr A. M. Kurup, Chief Research Scientist at the Centre for Social Science Research on Leprosy, Gandhi Memorial Leprosy Foundation, Wardha, India. This talk was given in the Grecales Training Centre, Calcutta on 30 January 1992, and is now printed in a 40-page booklet, and is available from Grecales (price US\$5 or 30 rupees).

The 3 sections of the lecture relate to: (1) health and society; (2) the social complications of leprosy; and (3) social science research. The first section is a general introduction with statements about the concepts of health and disease; the next outlines the size of the leprosy problem, its social and economic consequences, the patients' concept of cure and difficulties of treatment compliance.

The author brings together recommendations for social science research and these are listed in the third section. These recommendations have been made by various international bodies or working groups during the past 10 years. The areas already investigated take up half a page whilst the recommendations cover 8 pages, indicating that much remains to be done. The Centre for Social Science Research in Wardha, India is one of the few centres where training and research are being carried out.

In places, this lecture contains long sentences and the sociological terminology make comprehension difficult for the non-sociologist. There are numerous typographical errors.

Catalogue: WHO publications on tropical diseases, 1993

This catalogue provides bibliographic and descriptive information for 50 WHO publications focused on the prevention and control of tropical diseases. Publications are grouped according to the following topics:

- malaria,
- schistosomiasis,
- filariasis,
- trypanosomiasis,
- the leishmaniases,
- leprosy,
- tuberculosis,
- AIDS,
- intestinal parasitic infections,
- model prescribing information,
- laboratory methods,
- travel medicine,
- vector control.

In view of the magnitude of human suffering caused by tropical diseases, many of these books concentrate on strategies for prevention and control, emphasizing methods that are feasible, effective, affordable, and acceptable to communities. Some addressed to physicians and nurses, serve as clinical guides to the diagnosis and management of disease. Others, intended for health planners, provide comprehensive reports on virtually every practical or technical factor that needs to be considered when designing national policies for control. Still others set out training materials that can help health professionals acquire new skills or do a better job, even when conditions are primitive and resources scarce.

Regardless of topic, all publications participate in the larger WHO objective of using the tools of pragmatism, developed during more than 40 years of experience and backed by the best scientific knowledge, to pursue the visionary goal of better health for all.

Further enquiries: WHO Publications, Distribution & Sales, 1211 Geneva 27, Switzerland.