

## Book Reviews

***The Surgical Management of Deformities in Leprosy and Other Peripheral Neuropathies.* Noshir H. Antia, Carl D. Enna and Behman M. Daver**

This is an excellent textbook on the surgical management of leprosy-related deformities, written by international experts in the field of leprosy surgery.

The book begins with chapters on the pathogenesis and pathology of deformities in leprosy, and changes in the skin and peripheral nerves, which provide foundational knowledge on the destruction and mutilations that manifest this disease. The chapters relating to the deformities of the face and hands and their management are particularly outstanding, with a complementary section on applied anatomy. There are also separate chapters on the management of foot deformities, complications and secondary deformities and surgical rehabilitation which includes motor and sensory re-education, and foot-care.

The greatest strengths of this book are the clarity of presentation, good illustrations and the selection of topics which covers virtually all conditions seen by the leprosy surgeon. However, this work would have been more complete if data had been given on the results of the various procedures, showing the advantages of one technique over the other. The one area with which I would disagree relates to the use of vascularized muscle graft for the correction of lower facial palsy, where the use of sural nerve in the 1st stage cannot be justified because of possible mycobacterial infiltration.

In summary, this is a concise, well-referenced textbook, and although written primarily for the leprosy surgeon, it also has useful chapters which would be of interest to orthopaedic and hand surgeons. The lifetime experiences of these acknowledged experts is recommendation enough, and this reasonably-priced book should be an essential purchase by all those practising leprosy surgery.

*Jerome H. Pereira*

Oxford University Press, Bombay, 1992. 162 pp.

***Leprosy. A Reference Guide for Medical Practitioners, Programme Managers and Leprosy Workers.* R. S. Misra**

Dr R. S. Misra, consultant dermato-venereologist and leprologist in Safdarjung Hospital, the Government of India, New Delhi, has produced a book (Hardback, 352 pages) which is described by the publishers as giving an assessment of the current situation in leprosy (global, regional and high endemic), with particular attention to India. The main chapter headings include: 'Global View', 'The Indian Scenario', 'Problems in Leprosy Management' and 'Facets of Leprosy Eradication'. There is an excellent bibliography and index, together with 26 appendices under the headings of 'National Leprosy Eradication Programme (NLEP)', 'Implementation of NLEP' and 'Useful Background Information'. Apart from a few contributors from the UK and Brazil, the rest are from agencies or institutes in India, including the Bombay Leprosy Project, the Central JALMA Institute for Leprosy (Agra), the Sacred Heart Leprosy Centre (Coimbatore, Shieffelin Leprosy

Research and Training Centre, Karigiri), the Lala Lajput Rai Memorial College (Meerut), the Maulana Azad Medical College (Delhi), the Central Health Education Bureau, Government of India (Delhi), the Grant Medical College and the Sir J. J. Group of Hospitals (Bombay), the German Leprosy Relief Association (Madras) and the National Institute of Immunology (Delhi). The personal contributions by Dr Misra repeatedly underline the importance of uniform multiple drug therapy implementation, irrespective of the level of endemicity in any particular state or district. Especially concerning leprosy in India, this is almost certainly the most up-to-date and informative book available. The appendices alone run to over 100 pages and they are a mine of valuable information on operational definitions, statistical and epidemiological data in the NLEP. The author, already well known for his contributions to research in dermato-venereology and leprosy, has assembled in this book a remarkable combination of wisdom and practical advice, which will surely prove invaluable as a reference guide and handbook, especially in India. The book is published and printed by Ashok Kumar Mittal, Concept Publishing Company, A/15-16, Commercial Block, Mohan Garden, New Delhi 110059, India.

*A. Colin McDougall*

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