

Teaching Materials and Services

WHO 'Core Library'

WHO has developed a 'core library' for doctors working in small hospitals. This library, which consists of seven clinical manuals, was established following the recommendation of a study group concerned with hospital functions at the first referral level. The group specifically asked WHO to 'select and promote a short list of manuals that are considered indispensable to hospitals at first referral level and could form the nucleus of a hospital library'.

Three surgery manuals (*Anaesthesia at the District Hospital*, *General Surgery at the District Hospital* and *Surgery at the District Hospital*) were selected because they describe new life-saving procedures, as was the new pocket guide on *Management of Severe and Complicated Malaria. Respiratory Infections in Children: Management in Small Hospitals* was included because of its direct relevance to a major problem in hospitals, and *Manual of Radiographic Interpretation for General Practitioners* was selected as representing the most complete set of radiographic images for clinical use. Finally, *Cancer Pain Relief* was added to the list because many patients in developing countries are hospitalized because of intractable pain; when the cause is cancer, the disease may be so far advanced that pain relief is the sole treatment option.

To help make the library affordable, WHO has reduced the price by 65%, meaning the books, valued at Sw.fr.125, can be purchased for only Sw.fr.44. Since 4 of the books are large-format, weighty manuals, the price is, in effect, just enough to cover postage.

There are already signs that this special offer will be successful. The first order (from a Geneva address) arrived the day after promotion began, and many other orders have come in since; 2 NGOs are considering purchasing core libraries for all hospitals within selected countries, and the International Hospital Federation will be promoting the library in its newsletter and journal.

Available in English and French from: the World Health Organization, Distribution and Sales, 1211 Geneva 27, Switzerland.

TALC, U.K.: Libraries for district hospitals and health workers

TALC (Teaching Aids at Low Costs) already sends out large numbers of subsidised books, but knows that there is also an urgent need for many hospitals and health clinics in the developing world to have an up-to-date range of medical and health books. Because of the situation TALC is making 2 libraries available which have both been selected by experts to provide the best range of information possible.

The first library for district hospitals costs £85 including postage and packing by surface mail worldwide. It contains 17 books ranging from 2 on primary surgery, to an AIDS handbook and the latest book on tuberculosis.

The second, aimed at district health workers, has 14 books and costs £60 including postage and packing by surface mail. The books include 'Where there is no Doctor', a revised book on nutrition and a book on obstetric emergencies.

Anyone interested in participating in this scheme who would like further details should contact TALC at: PO Box 49, St Albans, Herts. AL1 4AX, U.K. Telephone No: 0727 853869.

Disability Information Service, AHRTAG, U.K.

The Disability Information Service is specifically for disabled people in developing countries and those working with them.

It provides ready access to an extensive range of written materials on disability and rehabilitation, including books, manuals, conference proceedings, journal articles and unpublished reports.

The emphasis is on materials that cover the community based approach to rehabilitation, particularly those produced in developing countries.

The service has been set up jointly by AHRTAG (Appropriate Health Resources and Technologies Action Group Ltd) in the U.K., and the International Child Health Unit (ICH) at Uppsala University, Sweden.

These organizations liaise closely with the United Nations Disabled Persons Unit in Austria. The Unit is setting up a clearing-house on disability and rehabilitation worldwide which will co-ordinate a worldwide network of resource centres and databases.

Just write in with details of what specific area you are interested in receiving information. Please be as precise as possible, so that we can ensure that any information sent to you is relevant to your particular needs.

Universities, libraries and all enquirers from the Nordic countries should write to:

Disability Information Service
ICH
University Hospital
S-751 85 Uppsala
Sweden

Development projects, other organizations and individuals should write to:

Disability Information Service
AHRTAG
1 London Bridge Street
London SE1 9SG
U.K.

World Orthopaedic Concern (WOC)

WOC exists to improve standards of orthopaedic care and education by:

- training orthopaedic surgeons in their own countries to the highest standards appropriate to the challenges they may meet;
- training undergraduates and other medical staff to face the same challenges;
- sending both junior and senior orthopaedic staff from Britain to hospitals abroad to assist in training and care programmes;
- sending equipment and medical literature, as needed, to hospitals abroad;
- establishing a 'reserve pool' of medical personnel to respond to major disasters worldwide;
- working with others—surgeons in other medical disciplines, anaesthetists, orthotists and prosthetists, physiotherapists and nurses—involved in developing surgical services abroad.

Contact: World Orthopaedic Concern at the British Orthopaedic Association, 35–43 Lincoln's Inn Fields, London WC2A 3PN, U.K. Tel: 071 405 6507. Fax: 071 831 2676.

Where there is no doctor, a village health care handbook, 1992

This revised edition of the handbook, 446 pp, by D. Werner with C. Thuman and J. Maxwell, describes a wide range of illnesses and factors that affect the health of the villager in developing countries, from diarrhoea to tuberculosis. It now includes information about additional health

problems, such as AIDS, dengue, abortion complications and drug addiction. Advice is updated on other topics, with emphasis on cleanliness, healthy diet and vaccinations. Childbirth and family planning are covered in detail.

The book explains which medicines are most useful for specific sicknesses and which are useless or dangerous. Risks and precautions are carefully described and guidelines given for the sensible use of both traditional and modern medicines. The handbook is aimed at villagers remote from medical centres, and village storekeepers and pharmacists selling health care supplies. Its important and clearly written information will also interest village health workers, teachers, mothers and midwives.

Available in more than 50 languages. Contact: The Hesperian Foundation, P.O. Box 1692, Palo Alto, CA 94302, U.S.A.

The Prescriber; guidelines on the rational use of drugs

The first issue of the newsletter appeared in January 1992 and it is intended to provide information on the rational use of essential drugs to community health care workers in developing countries. Each issue of *The Prescriber* concentrates on a particular health issue. Topics to date have included sexually transmitted and AIDS related diseases, drug use in pregnancy and most recently, diarrhoeal diseases.

Available in English, French, Spanish and Portuguese from: UNICEF, 3 United Nations Plaza, New York, NY 10017, U.S.A.

Leprosy—basic information and management, Ciba-Geigy (now in Urdu)

This 42-page booklet, originally in English, has been translated into French, Spanish, Bengali, Indonesian and recently Urdu. (Copies in Urdu may be obtained on writing to the Superintendent, Rawalpindi Leprosy Hospital, Zafar-ul-Haq Road, Rawalpindi 46000, Pakistan.) It is distributed free, in reasonable numbers to *bona fide* applicants, on application to: The Medical Department, Ciba-Geigy, Basle 4002, Switzerland.

Multidrug therapy: questions and answers, WHO (now in Bengali)

This valuable booklet deals with commonly arising questions in the implementation of multiple drug therapy (MDT)—and gives answers. It will be distributed in West Bengal and Bangladesh.

Apply to: Dr D. S. Chaudhury, Director, Greater Calcutta Leprosy Treatment and Health Education Scheme, 23 Market Street, Calcutta 700 087, India.

Master of Public Health (MPH) Course, Leeds, U.K.

The MPH for warm climate countries was established in 1981. The course is designed to help medical practitioners in positions where medical skills alone are not enough, including individuals taking charge of districts, and district medical officers moving to provincial level. The course also seeks to prepare doctors for more senior administrative positions and for movement to academic posts in university departments.

'The district' is the focus of the teaching—it is at this level that the vital link between policy and community takes place and theory is turned into practice.

The Design of the Course

Principles of preventive and community medicine as opposed to the curative approach will be emphasized.

The Leeds MPH has an interdisciplinary approach to its teaching, drawing on the departments of Public Health Medicine, Civil Engineering and the Nuffield Institute from the University and that of Health Education from the Polytechnic. There is also an extensive programme of visiting speakers providing information on the most recent advances of their subjects.

A variety of lively teaching methods are employed. Interaction between course members from different parts of the world is one of the most valuable features. Tutorials are given for small group teaching and a personal tutor is available to help. Staff specifically attached to the course aim to foster a spirit of caring and encourage both academic and social activities.

Course Content includes:

- public health medicine;
- epidemiology and statistics;
- demography;
- planning and management;
- health promotion;
- health engineering;
- family and urban health;
- occupational health;
- use of personal computers (Epi Info will be taught and used).

Further options will be added to reflect student needs.

Apply: MPH Course Coordinator, Dept of Clinical Medicine, Academic Unit of Public Health Medicine, 20 Hyde Terrace, Leeds LS2 9LN, U.K.

Video on Multidrug Therapy (MDT) for Leprosy, WHO

This film is intended to create an enhanced awareness among decision-makers, public health managers, health workers and the public, of the importance and effectiveness of MDT in the control and treatment of leprosy. It was produced in 1991, VHS, 20 mm, English and French. Cost: Sw fr. 40 (USA \$36.00); developing countries, Sw fr. 28. Order No. 1650058. Apply: WHO, Distribution and Sales, 1211 Geneva 27, Switzerland.

Health Action: Newsletter from AHRTAG, U.K.

Health Action is published by the Appropriate Health Resources and Technologies Action Group (AHRTAG).

It is a quarterly newsletter that covers the key issues in management and practice of primary health care, highlighting the links between health and other aspects of development. It provides a new forum for discussion of the issues that affect the future implementation of primary health care—and the well-being of millions of people.

Who is it for? . . . all those who implement primary health care programmes or work in related fields. It will be useful to those involved in planning, supervision and training, particularly within health districts, as well as people in government or multilateral organizations who support these workers.

Regular features include:

- Combating inequality—focusing on the opinions and experiences of people who are challenging inequalities in health and society;
- Reviews and Resources—a useful page of information about publications, videos, conferences and courses;
- Feedback and letters—a chance for you to air your views;
- Challenge—in each issue we pose a question on a primary health care issue so that you can tell us about your experiences.

How much does it cost? . . . If you live or work in a developing country, it is free. For other people, there is an annual subscription charge (details available from AHRTAG).

To become a regular reader, please contact: Health Action, AHRTAG, 1 London Bridge Street, London SE1 9SG, U.K.