

## BOOK REVIEW

**Dermatology in General Practice.** By SIGMUND S. GREENBAUM, B.S., M.D., F.A.C.P., *Professor of Clinical Dermatology and Syphilology, University of Pennsylvania Graduate School of Medicine (etc.)*, and Seven Contributors. F. A. Davis Company, Philadelphia, 1947; pp. xxv—889, with 846 illustrations, 20 in color; \$12.00.

Dermatology in General Practice is designated for the busy practitioner, the undergraduate, and for all those who from time to time may require information on the major clinical, diagnostic, and therapeutic facts about a particular dermatosis. Emphasis has been placed upon the photographic presentation. One unusual feature is that the sections are arranged alphabetically by the name of condition or group of conditions, regardless of the etiological factors, so that for example those on leprosy and tuberculosis are far apart. Another feature is that, whereas the material supplied by most of the contributors is blended indistinguishably with the rest of the text, that of three of them is distinguished as distinct sections or chapters with bibliographies.

One of these special sections, comprising 34 pages, is that on leprosy, by Dr. H. W. Wade. The subject material is well organized, and it is presented in a clear concise manner. The author gives a brief history of leprosy, from the older records and its spread from Ancient Greece to Europe to its later spread to the New World, and a survey of its present world distribution. He then discusses the clinical manifestations of the disease, the causative agent, pathogenicity, transmission of infection, susceptibility, pathology, diagnosis, treatment, and the complications of the disease.

In keeping with the emphasis placed upon photographic presentation throughout the book, there are several (16) illustrations here. It is to be regretted that the majority of these are of advanced conditions. Earlier lesions—such as might have been selected, at least in part, from among the many which have illustrated the writer's original articles—would have been more helpful as aids in diagnosis, since leprosy is not as prevalent in the United States as it is in other countries. The value of the photographs used is still further lessened by the fact that they lack captions.

The treatment of leprosy and its complications takes up six pages, but consideration is confined chiefly to chaulmoogra oil and its preparations. The modern advances made in treatment, particularly with the sulfones, are not dealt with except for two short sentences at the end of the topic "Other Means of Treatment"; and those drugs are spoken of as "sulfonamides." There is an extensive bibliography, almost six pages of small type, but except for two or three 1940 items it extends only to 1939.

This volume should be valuable as a reference for all dermatologists because it furnishes information not readily available in other texts. At the same time, the anomalies of the presentation under review are such that an explanation has been sought. Dr. Greenbaum, in his preface, states that the book was begun in 1939 by Dr. John B. Ludy, who before his death asked him (Greenbaum) to take it over. From Dr. Wade it is learned that the leprosy section had been requested by Dr. Ludy for an

entirely different publication, and that what was supplied him was an unfinished product sent in 1940 only for examination, to be revised and illustrated later. Completion was delayed and the war intervened; and, Dr. Wade states, he was offered no opportunity afterward to bring the material up to date or to supply illustrations.

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