

BOOK REVIEW

Manual of Leprosy. By ERNEST MUIR, C. M. G., C. I. E., M. D., F. R. C. S. (Edin.); *Medical Advisor, British Empire Leprosy Relief Association; Secretary, International Leprosy Association; (etc.).* E. & S. Livingstone Ltd., Edinburg, 1948. Pp. viii 208, with 70 illustrations (10 in color); cloth, 17s. 6d.

This small practical book records the latest conclusions of the author based on his long experience in India and while on tours in Africa and other countries as medical secretary of the British Empire Leprosy Relief Association. It is on similar lines to his manual published some two decades ago in India, but is a new and up to date account written for the guidance of "doctors, nurses and lay workers." It deals mainly with a clinical description of the disease and its treatment and preventive measures now in common use, and makes no pretence to be a complete account of all aspects of the subject. For this reason the history, bacteriology, mode of infection, prevalence and rates of incidence are dismissed in the first seventeen pages, and are followed by short sections of tissue reaction and resistance and the lepromin test. The various recent systems of classification are briefly considered and that of the Pan-American Congress of 1946, based on histological findings, is adopted and summarized in a convenient table under lepromatous, uncharacteristic and tuberculoid types: although the difficulties of most workers in leprosy areas in obtaining facilities and time for such histological examinations are recognized by the author.

The next few chapters are devoted to a careful clinical description of this protean disease, which is well illustrated by the author's photographs of cases and of histological changes, a few of which are in colour. This constitutes the most useful section of the book and it includes eye and other complications, bacteriological examinations, differential diagnosis, case taking and prognosis. Thirty pages are next devoted to treatment on the lines advocated by the author, who first recommends the use of injections of hydnocarpus oil and ethyl esters, although in recent years much of the oil supplies to Africa and elsewhere have arrived in a rancid condition unsuitable for this use. A chapter on sulphone treatment records the great advances obtained from their use in resistant advanced lepromatous cases by American workers and by the author himself in Trinidad. The recently used sulphetrone is considered to be the least toxic and most active of these preparations.

The last section deals with the method now in use in antileprosy control without going into the history of compulsory segregation, which is recommended for the infective cases. The importance of separation of healthy children of infected patients is emphasized. This book can be recommended for the use of workers in the numerous endemic areas of leprosy.—[By L. Rogers in *Tropical Diseases Bulletin* 45 (1948) 1131-1132; verbatim except for the deletion of a single irrelevant sentence.]

História da Lepra no Brasil. By HERACLIDES-CESAR DE SOUZA-ARAÚJO, *Chief of the Section of Bacteriology and of the Laboratory of Leprology of the Instituto Oswaldo Cruz, and Professor of Leprology*

of the Faculty of Medical Sciences. Vol. I. Períodos Colonial e Monárquico (1500-1889). Imprensa Nacional, Rio de Janeiro, 1946, P. xiii + 559, with 40 plates; fabric, \$12 or £3, net.

It is difficult in a brief review to do justice to this monumental work, a handsomely bound folio book of over 500 pages (and 3,500 gm. in weight) replete with evidence of painstaking historical research. Professor de Souza-Araujo tells the story of leprosy in Brazil from 1500 to 1889, first discussing the introduction of the disease and then, period after period, its prevalence and progress, the confusion in diagnosis from time to time, and the measures taken for preventing its spread and for dealing with the patients. There is a general statement of the matter as it stands at the beginning of each period, a sort of interim summary replete with information. Every fact mentioned as of importance during the period of nearly 400 years is vouched for by transcriptions of documentary evidence, additional interest being afforded by the reproduction in facsimile of much of the correspondence. The periods as indicated by the chapter heads are: from the discovery of Brazil to the end of the Spanish regime (1500-1640); the situation in the period of the viceroys (1640-1808), with the history of the hospital for lepers in Rio de Janeiro beginning in 1763, and the introduction and spread of the disease into the interior; progress in prophylaxis during the reign of João VI (1808-1821); antileprosy activities during the reign of Pedro I (1821-1831); the problem during the Regency (1831-1840); the reign of Pedro II (1840-1889), divided into two chapters; and at the end there is a general index.

There has been considerable conflict of opinion as to the origin of leprosy in Brazil. Chico stated that when the Spaniards first went to Mexico, in 1519, they found many cases there, and he believed that infection had been imported from the Sandwich Archipelago with which Mexico had been in touch from ancient times. It is said that Cortez, the Conquistador, founded a hospital for lepers beside Lake Texcoco near Mexico City. Others hold that what was called "morphoea" or "leprosy" in those early days was really "mal del pinto," while the mutilations, particularly of the face, depicted in ancient pottery resemble the lesions of "espundia" (leishmaniasis). The author concludes, for Brasil, that leprosy did not exist among the aborigines there. Manoel de Nobrega (1549-60), in his work on the local diseases, made no mention of any which could be interpreted as leprosy. Thevet, a Frenchman who went to Brazil in 1555 and mingled with the various tribes noted their diseases, did not refer to leprosy although he had knowledge of it from previous travels. De Lery, Soares de Souza, and others of the 16th century, and Evreux, Piso de Liebsted, and others of the 17th, described many of the diseases of the country but not leprosy, and the lastnamed stated definitely that it was not known there.

The disease was evidently introduced by immigrants, firstly by the Portuguese, secondly from Spain, thirdly from France—especially Brittany and Normandy, whence sailors made frequent voyages to Brazil and some settled there—and lastly from Holland, where there was much leprosy in the 15th and 16th centuries when migration to Brazil was common. A more fruitful source, however, was the slave traffic. Madeira and the Canary Islands were centers of the commerce from West Africa, and transshipment was arranged there to Spain and Portugal and thence to the west and to Brazil in particular. After 200 years, when the population

of Brazil was 3,750,000—only 7% of them indigenes—Africans constituted 61%, most of them slaves imported from a highly leprous part of Africa.

By the beginning of the 17th century the situation led to thought of establishing a leprosy hospital. Apparently in 1637 an appeal was made for control of the many leprous persons who were roaming about the towns. There is a belief, or legend, that a "leper camp" was set up, and this is adduced as accounting for the Chapel of São Lázaro in Salvador, Rio de Janeiro. However, the first known hospital of the kind was decided upon in 1741. A commission established regulations for compulsory notification and segregation, and for careful examination of imported Negroes, and this action led to the inauguration of lazarettos with separate sections for the sexes and for different social classes. There seems to have been some delay, however, for a verbatim copy of the deed shows that on January 31, 1765, the Jesuit seminary of São Christovão was legally assigned as a leprosy hospital. A copy of its statutes is reproduced, giving the general rules for discipline, the duties of the physician, nursing staff, arrangements for accountancy and salaries, etc.

In the chapter describing the introduction and spread of the disease in the interior of Brazil during this period—Pará, Pernambuco, Bahia, São Paulo and Minas Gerais—many interesting points are to be found but limits of space forbid speaking of them. [Thus the review from which this material is taken—gives at remarkable length the vicissitudes of the São Christovão hospital, which after interference by commercial interests and the military was, between 1817 and 1832, moved twice to unsatisfactory sites and finally returned to the original one.] In the meantime other hospitals were founded in other provinces—at Belém in Pará, at Cinabá in Matto Grosso, and in São Paulo and Minas Gerais. As early as 1816 orders were being promulgated for the protection of and giving aid to children of leprosy patients and for the safeguarding of those boarded out. By decree, the support of the afflicted by "voluntary contribution" was replaced by a Government grant for their maintenance.

The history of the Rio de Janeiro Medical Society and its periodical—the *Boletim da Academia de Medicina*—are gone into, with verbatim reproductions of some of the papers read. Other interesting matters are copies of hitherto unpublished documents from the colonial historical archives at Lisbon, detailing the proceedings of a medical congress held at Rio de Janeiro in May 1840, a plan for leprosy prophylaxis, and the testing of new drugs: "sipo d'onca" and cashew, snake venoms, and *Carpotroche brasiliensis*, the Brazilian chaulmoogra, which alone has fulfilled at least some of its expectations.

The work is embellished not only by verbatim records of correspondence but by facsimile reproductions of many letters and decrees, and by excellently reproduced photographs. The author has made the utmost use of the opportunity which his position has afforded him to study documents inaccessible to most, and the result is a volume of surpassing interest to the historian of tropical medicine.—[From a review in *Trop. Dis. Bull.* 44 (1947) 760-762.]

História da Leprea no Brasil. By HERACLIDES-CESAR DE SOUZA-ARAÚJO. Vol. II. Período Republicano (1889-1946). Album das Organizações Anti-leprosas. Imprensa Nacional, Rio de Janeiro, 1948. Pp. xx + 380 plates, fabric, \$8 or £3, net.

This handsome volume, set up similarly to the first one is an album of more than a thousand pictures on 380 plates, depicting the institutions and organizations dealing with leprosy in Brazil during the period 1889-1946, the Republic Period. One cannot in words review a picture gallery; one can only point out the objects aimed at and indicate their importance.

There are in Brazil 38 leprosaria, with another under construction. Minas Gerais has six, São Paulo five, Pará three, and several states have two each. There are 27 preventoria for children, and one more being constructed. Minas Gerais has four, São Paulo three, others have two or one each. Every preventorium has its director and leprologist, and each of 15 of them also has a pediatrician on the staff.

The book contains portraits of celebrities, scientists and administrators engaged in leprosy work, photographs and plans of various leprosaria and preventoria, and pictures of patients, children, conferences, congresses and festivals going back to the last decade of the nineteenth century and, in total, of the highest interest. Each state and the various districts are taken in turn. The whole is divided according to the three phases into which the republican period naturally falls: first, 1900 to 1920, the period before modern prophylactic measures were in force; second, 1921 to 1930, the phase of the *Inspeçtoria* for the prophylaxis of leprosy of the National Department of Public Health; and third, 1931-1935, the "Getulian Period" of intensification of the prophylactic effort under the presidency of Dr. Getulio Vargas. The original idea was to interpolate these pictures in appropriate text, but that was found impossible and the letterpress pertaining to the pictures is to make the third volume of this epochal work on leprosy in Brazil.

The author has taken the greatest pains to make the work complete. The reproductions are clear and the whole constitutes a collection worthy of a place in any library. Apart from the intrinsic value of the work itself, attention must be drawn to the very generous gesture on the part of the author who has set apart one-half of the issue, as he did in the case of the first one [see *THE JOURNAL* 16 (1948) 489], for sale on account of the Souza-Araujo fund of the International Leprosy Association—an act of philanthropy worthy of the highest honour and gratitude.—[Largely from *Trop. Dis. Bull.* 45 (1948) 1132.]

Índice Bibliográfico de Lepra. By LUIZA KEFFER, *Bibliotecária do Departamento de Profilaxia da Lepra de São Paulo, Brasil*... Vol. I, A-H, pp. xxxviii + 1-674; 1944. Vol. II, I-P, pp. xxi + 675-1434; 1946. Vol. III, Q-Z, pp. xxvi + 1435-1936; 1948. Departamento de Profilaxia da Lepra do Estado de São Paulo, Brasil. No indication of price.)

This monumental work in three volumes, covering over 1,900 pages, prepared under the direction of Luiza Keffer, Librarian of the Department of Leprosy Prevention of the State of São Paulo, Brazil [see *THE JOURNAL* 15 (1947) 230], is the fruit of ten years of constant labor in an institution which has collected "one of the greatest specialized bibliographies in medicine which, at present, has more than 100,000 cards." Each work mentioned is to be found in the library of the Department; and although the Index is restricted to papers contained there, it is stated that it contains "practically everything that has been written about this legendary

disease." This claim would seem to be well founded, for the references date from the year 1500 to the present day.

The arrangement is alphabetical, with many cross references, so that a given work may appear under more than one heading. By far the greater number of entries are by authors' names, and these of course are equally useful to all readers regardless of his language. At the same time a serious effort has been made to extend the usefulness of the work by subject headings, an obviously more difficult task; and here a reader not familiar with Portuguese language may at times have difficulty in locating subjects (e.g., Queloid). On glancing rapidly over Volume III one is struck by the following headings: Reação, almost 40 pages; Relatoris, 13 pages; Segregação, nearly 12 pages; Serologia, nearly 12 pages; Transmissão, nearly 17 pages; and Terapêutica, 182 pages! Such long sections are subheaded, as by the name of the reaction dealt with or the drug used.

The editor of the Index appeals to medical workers and editors to send their special publications to the library, where they will be given the widest international notice, it being added that the library deals with no less than 185,000 consultations by correspondence annually. It is proposed to organize an Annual Supplement to the Index, to be published as a special number of the *Revista Brasileira de Leprologia*.

The worker interested in leprosy and its history could ask for nothing fuller than this tremendous, carefully prepared and well-produced compilation.—[In part from *Tropical Diseases Bulletin* 45 (1948) 1133.]