

BOOK REVIEW

Memoria del Congreso Internacional de la Lepra, Celebrado en la Habana, Cuba, del 3 al 11 de Abril de 1948. Organizado por el Gobierno de la República de Cuba con la Colaboracion de la Asociacion Internacional de la Lepra. República de Cuba [Habana, 1949]; paper, 1322 pp.

This massive volume, well printed with a pleasant type-face on high-grade paper, is without parallel in the literature of leprosy. Containing everything available of the overwhelming amount of material presented at or sent to the Havana Congress, it represents a tremendous labor on the part of the general secretary of the Congress, Dr. Ismael Ferrer, and a few associates who for more than a year after the close of the meeting worked on its production. The fact that four languages are used made the task the more difficult.

A preface by Dr. Ferrer and a general report of the Congress (in Spanish), followed by lists of committees, of the officers of the International Leprosy Association, and of the members of the Congress, and by 22 pages of photographs of individuals and groups, the general and scientific programs, the reports of the technical committees (in both Spanish and English) together with the discussions of them, and the minutes of the general meeting of the International Leprosy Association held on April 11 (also in two languages), fill the first 108 pages. At the end of the book there are two appendices, one being the part of the report of the Committee on Classification which was discarded by the final plenary session, the other being a financial report which shows that a total of \$43,163.30 was available for the purposes of the Congress (\$40,000 from the Cuban government, the rest from various sources), and that only \$263.81 remained after the printers' bill and all other charges had been settled. Between these for- and after-part, the scientific matter occupies no less than 1191 pages.

This material is arranged in three sections: (1) the papers which were included in the actual programs of the sessions, (2) those "read by title, authors present" (i.e., all those in excess of the two allowed each member), and (3) those "read by title, authors absent" (i.e., those sent in by persons who expected to attend but did not, or who without expectation of attending wished to be represented), the whole comprising a total of 195 individual items. The reports in the first section are grouped by subject insofar as that was done at the time of the meeting, but those of the other sections reveal no systematic attempt at special arrangement. For the classification by subjects, the material in the Congress issue of *THE JOURNAL* (16 (1948) 255-317) may be referred to, although the distribution made there might be improved on to some extent. No space limits were set for the articles. All photographs and other materials submitted were reproduced, and none of the matter is set in small type. While not a few items occupy only one or two pages, 11 of them take up 20 or more (one of them 40 and another one 63); the average is 7.6. The difficulties in assembling the material which the editor encountered are evidenced by the fact that not less than 24 items consist only of summaries, while 18 are

bare titles. The distribution in the different sections and by the categories here indicated is as follows:

Section	Full	Summary	Title	Total
I.	93	6	7	106
II.	31	12	7	50
III.	29	6	4	39
Totals	153	24	18	195

So fine a production merits an adequate subject index, and for one so massive and with so much valuable material such a feature is essential. Even so simple a one as that of the transactions of the conference held in Strasbourg in 1923 would be most helpful. There is, at the end of the book, a 12-page "index" which lists seriatim all the features of the book, including all contributions with their full titles and names of authors. If one seeks material on a given subject he has to scan this whole section, which is time-consuming and tiring. An author index, containing 185 names, has been provided, and it is helpful even though it is of the simplest kind. After each name there is given only the pertinent page number or numbers, with no indication of whether an individual is the sole author of the item or items referred to or one of two or more authors. There are multiple references for many names (actually, for one-third of the total), 31 having two entries each, 16 three, 9 four, 2 five, 1 seven, 1 eight, and 2 nine each; and, lacking any indication of the subjects involved in the different references, one has to search them one by one to find any particular item.

There are a few errata which should be mentioned. The seriatim list of titles lacks one which appears at the bottom of p. 1053, and it also lacks one division head (for the articles "read by title, authors absent"). There is one duplication, a summary on p. 895 of an article which appears in full beginning on p. 595. On p. 307 an article actually written by L. M. Silveira of São Paulo is credited primarily to Orsini de Castro and others of Minas Gerais. In the alphabetical list of authors only one real error is detected, Karlson being listed as Garlson, but in two or three places the names of Brazilians are listed according to Spanish custom whereas—we understand—the individuals concerned do differently (e.g., de Castro, Orsini appears as Orsini de Castro, and de Souza, Paulo Rath appears as Rath de Souza, P.) On the other hand Alcantara Madeira and de Aguiar Pupo appear here as they use their names, although in the list of members of the Congress they appear as Madeira and Pupo, respectively.

These remarks cannot detract from the fact that this book is a magnificent product which should be in the hands of all persons seriously engaged in the study of leprosy or concerned with its control. —H. W. W.

↳ **La Dermatologie aux Etats-Unis d'Amérique.** By LÉON VAN LIERDE, with preface by DR. CLÉMENT SIMON, *President d'Honneur de la Société française de Dermatologie et de Syphiligraphie*. Les Editions "Acta Medica Belgica." Bruxelles, 1950. Pp. 72; paper, 50 Belgian francs.

This unusual publication, notice of which has been requested by the publisher, would be of interest to any dermatologist planning to visit the United States. It is divided into the following sections: I, the dermatological centers, listing and describing briefly those in twelve cities, in-

cluding Los Angeles on the west coast but not San Francisco; II, the organization of a dermatological congress; III, specialization in dermatosyphiligraphy; IV, books and periodicals on the subject, with a list of recommended ones; V, the methods of dermatological diagnosis; VI, dermatological therapy, subdivided into (1) therapeutic apparatus, (2) medicaments, and (3) the dermatoses, each subject with a brief statement and most of those in the last two categories with lists of references.

—H. W. W.