

BOOK REVIEW

6 Atlas of Leprosy. By KENSUKE MITSUDA, Director of Nagashima Aisei-en National Leprosarium. Foreword by the Kensuke Mitsuda Publication Committee of the Chotokai Foundation. Published, 1952, under the auspices of the Chotokai Foundation (Chojyu Kwai), Okayama. Printed and sold by Nankodo, Ltd., 32-3 Haruki-cho, Bunkyo-ku, Tokyo. 9 + 80 pp., 18 x 25.5 cm., in English; price \$10.00 plus postage.

The foreword of this book summarizes briefly the author's accomplishments in work which began in 1898 in Tokyo and has been pursued for fifty-five years, his age in 1952 being 76 years. When the Zensei hospital—the first government leprosarium, prefectural—was established in 1909 he was appointed its director, and he served there until 1931 when Nagashima-Aisei-en—the first national leprosarium—was opened. His major contributions as listed include a classification of leprosy types (1904), observation of lipoids in the lesions (1909), recognition of the tuberculoid type (1911), and the Mitsuda reaction (1919). The Publication Committee has previously put out five volumes of his papers, and the pictures which illustrate them are collected in this sixth volume.

The author's introduction has to do largely with classification. In Japan, classification was influenced by Hansen and Looft, whose term "macule"—it is stated—"was used in the sense of the present tuberculoid macule." The skin lesions of this form, which the author had classified as "lepra maculosa" as early as 1904, he considers as a transient inflammatory condition which gradually disappears, giving way to a vitiligo belonging to the neural type. The tuberculoid type is not actually described. As for classifying lepra nervosa as "uncharacteristic," he says "there is still room for argument." This type is discussed briefly, largely with reference to the nerve changes, but also with a description of the acute exacerbation which occurs in it, with a peculiar edematous swelling of the face and augmentation of the motor and sensory defects. A brief description of the lepromatous type is given, and of two forms of acute eruptions which occur in it. One is erythema nodosum leprosum, described as a troublesome condition which occurs "as medical treatment or natural recovery causes the leprotic tissue to become quiescent and the lepra bacilli fall into degeneration," and which is regarded as a favorable prognostic sign. The other is an "acute infiltration" which may occur as an extensive lepromatous infiltration, during which the Mitsuda reaction changes from negative to doubtful or weakly positive, the disease taking a benign course as the infiltration is absorbed. This introductory statement is essential to an understanding of various diagnoses applied to illustrations throughout the atlas.

Of the 109 illustrations, 49 are three-color reproductions of drawings, 46 of them of histological fields, all with brief descriptive legends, mostly demonstrative despite a general tendency to suppress the supporting structures, although a few are over-schematic. Only 5 are of hematoxylin-eosin preparations, while 36 are of Ziehl-Neelsen-hematoxylin sections; the others are Sudan III. There are also two excellent renderings of the gross appearance of a lepromatous eyeball (outer and inner surfaces of the anterior

half), and one picture is of the well-known moulage of a tattooed figure in which the red (cinnabar) portions are much more affected by lepromatous infiltration than the black (india ink) portions. The last 25 pages are devoted to black-and-white clinical photographs (42, including 2 moulages) and pathological specimens (10), many of the former being of typical advanced conditions. All of the illustrations are listed in a table of contents.

While many of these pictures are, necessarily, familiar to anyone with experience of leprosy, many of the conditions shown will have been seen by few. Examples among the colored drawings are: a leproma with the bacilli demonstrated by Sudan III; a very low-magnification drawing of a whole section of an abscessed nerve (radial, at the wrist); calcification of an old necrotic nerve; obliterative leprotic arteritis (epididymis); bacilli in an amyloid kidney; bone, absorption of the nasal septum; a tooth, with abundant bacilli, even within the dentine tubules; achilles tendon with bacilli in the elongate tendon cells; nerve ganglion cells with bacilli (several examples); and ascending degeneration of Burdock's and Gall's columns in the thoracic spinal cord (Weigert method).

Among the case and specimen photographs (besides two showing a reactional tuberculoid case labelled as "major tuberculoid") are: a perforated nerve abscess of the forearm; a "chaulmoogra face" (wrinkling after retrogression, lepromatous leprosy); the marked leprotic alopecia peculiarly common in Japan (several examples); lesions of the calvarium due to lepromas of the scalp; the "acute exacerbation" of neural leprosy; the "acute infiltration" of lepromatous leprosy, and the condition after its subsidence; marked thickening of the vagus nerves (dissected specimen); and lepromas of the adrenal.

This atlas is an utterly unique production, representing a tremendous amount of work done on an exceptionally wide range of material. It should be in the library of every serious student of leprosy. H. W. WADE