

BOOK REVIEW

Modern Concepts of Leprosy. By HARRY L. ARNOLD, JR., M.D. Publication No. 145, American Lecture Series; Monograph in American Lectures in Dermatology, edited by Arthur C. Curtis, M.D. Springfield, Illinois: Charles C. Thomas, 1953; 105 pp., 33 illustrations, 6 tables; Lexide, \$3.75.

Dr. Harry L. Arnold, Jr.'s monograph, *Modern Concepts of Leprosy*, meets an important need in the antileprosy campaign which is not fulfilled by the numerous more lengthy and detailed treatises written by leprologists over the last hundred years.

The modesty of the author, who in the first few lines of his preface declares himself to be no leprologist, only emphasizes the integrity of what he writes, since he is known to be a distinguished dermatologist who has for many years associated himself closely with clinicians and scientists engaged in the leprosy field. His position at the Straub Clinic, at Honolulu, has afforded him the opportunity to see many patients with "Hansen's disease" at the famed Kalaupapa Settlement on the island of Molokai, at the now abandoned Kalihi detention station in the city of Honolulu, and of recent years at the new leprosarium, Hale Mohalu, at Pearl City near Honolulu on the island of Oahu.

Chaussinand, Cochrane, Danielssen and Boeck, Hansen, Klingmüller, Muir and Rogers, de Souza Lima and Wade, to mention but a few of the notable ones in this field, have written for leprologists. Dr. Arnold declares at the outset that such is not his intended audience, but rather dermatologists and students. He might well have added "general clinicians"—and, for these, such a dissertation has been much needed and the author has done it well.

It may be assumed that the monograph is intended chiefly for medical men in the United States. It is for that reason it attains special importance.

During World War II the Commission on Tropical Diseases prepared a brochure on *Recognition and Management of Leprosy* for distribution to the members of the medical corps of the U. S. Army. Eventually it was used, but less widely, by the Navy. There were two factors that made such a statement needful. First, tens of thousands of American military personnel were being sent into areas, from New Caledonia and Guadalcanal to Japan, where leprosy was endemic, and in many places highly so; and second, few of the thousands of doctors being called from their ordinary practice to care for this personnel had ever seen more than a case or two of leprosy, if any.

Dr. Arnold points out that the incubation period of this illness is often long, that it may be as much as ten years, and he is being, if anything, conservative. Moreover, our armed forces still serve in highly endemic areas; also, it may well be expected that, wholly aside from war, American contacts with those parts of the world where this disease—from which hitherto we have been reasonably free—flourishes, will be increasingly greater. This makes it imperative that our doctors in the smallest towns

of the nation know how not to confuse leprosy with other illnesses with which they are more familiar. The lengthy differential diagnosis recited in the monograph should be common knowledge to physicians, and the list is suggestive rather than complete.

Dr. Arnold, while writing authoritatively (the character and world-wideness of his bibliography is guarantee of that), writes with clarity and simplicity and is pleasantly undogmatic. Even laymen can read this monograph intelligently, and many will be tempted to do so.

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Compêndio de Leprologia. By DRs. LUIS MARINO BECHELLI and ABRAHÃO ROTBERG. Serviço Nacional de Lepra, Rio de Janeiro, 1951, 684 pp.

Since 1942 the Brazilian National Leprosy Service has published a series of monographs with the double object of spreading knowledge of leprosy and its control throughout the country, and of providing literature which will be useful throughout the world. No country has spent more in money and personnel for the control of leprosy than Brazil, and in this the state of São Paulo has led. The present volume was written by two of the principal leprologists of the leprosy service of that state.

The volume is divided into 6 parts with 22 chapters, an appendix and a bibliography. The parts are headed consecutively: etiopathogenesis and pathology; clinical; diagnosis; treatment and prognosis; epidemiology; and prophylaxis. The text is profusely illustrated, many of the photographs in color. Nearly one-third (200 pages) is devoted to the clinical study of the progress and appearances of all the types and subtypes. The questions of resistance, immunity and allergy are discussed, and the group effects of BCG in producing a positive lepromin reaction are considered. The chapter on clinical diagnosis and differential diagnosis is particularly helpful.

Under sulfone treatment, the long time required in indeterminate cases for recovery is remarked on. However, none of these cases changed to the lepromatous type, and in the few where a reaction was produced the negative lepromin reaction became positive. The factors which favor the dissemination of leprosy are discussed under age, sex, race, debilitating diseases, diet, sociology and climate. Brazil is a country where many races meet, but the authors do not consider that leprosy has any predominant prevalence in any particular race.

The discussion of prophylaxis brings out the seriousness of the leprosy problem in Brazil. Up to the end of 1948 a total of 77,269 cases had been found. Of these, 11,184 were registered in dispensaries while 21,918 were in the 39 leprosaria throughout the country. There were also 2,929 children of leprosy parents in preventoria. The largest of the leprosaria, Pirapitingui, São Paulo, had 2,706 patients, and the Santa Izabel leprosarium had 2,253.

This book is a compendium of useful knowledge, arranged in an orderly and readable fashion. The illustrations make it particularly easy to understand, even by those who are not very competent Portuguese scholars.—[From a review in *Trop. Dis. Bull.* 49 (1952) 1089.]