

## BOOK REVIEW

Memoria del VI Congreso Internacional de Leprologia, Madrid, Octubre 1953. [Organized by the Government of Spain in collaboration with the International Leprosy Association and with financial assistance of the Council of International Organizations of Medical Sciences, an organization supported by the World Health Organization and by Unesco.] Madrid (June 1954).

The transactions of the Madrid congress constitute a book of large dimensions, 1,344 pages, somewhat larger in both respects than that of the Havana congress. No indication of source or date of publication appears in the book itself—the date October 1953 on the title page is that of the congress, not of publication—but the notation of the printer (Gráficas González) in the back gives the date of printing as June 1954, and that date is on the presentation slip of Dr. Felix Contreras, Secretary General of the congress, which accompanied the book. To get out so massive a volume, done so well, in so short a time is an achievement in which Dr. Contreras and his associates in the task may well take satisfaction.

The first part of the book contains the usual lists of organizers, officers, committees, and members, with pictures of various dignitaries, followed by a general account of the congress, the speeches delivered at the formal opening and closing meetings, accounts of the plenary sessions, and the day-by-day program.

The reports of the technical committees are to be found in this section, as a part of the account of the final session. Each report is given first, in italics for distinction, in the language—English or Spanish—used by the committee that wrote it, followed by the translation into the other language in roman type. By editorial oversight, the word "draft" was not deleted from the titles of the reports of the committees on classification and treatment, so that they appear as "draft reports" whereas actually they are the official final reports as approved by the congress. In two headings there is a conspicuous misspelling, a mishap that occurs less frequently in this book than might be expected, where much material in English was presumably put into type by personnel not familiar with that language.

At the back of the book is a report of the general meeting of the International Leprosy Association that was held on October 11th. Following that are two indices, one by authors and the other a general one in which the contents of the book are listed seriatim. In the former index all authors are listed with the titles, without distinction between senior and joint authors.

The great bulk of the book, naturally, consists of the papers presented at or to the congress; these occupy 1,176 pages (pp. 145-1320). They include those sent in by persons who expected to attend the congress but did not get there, provided they had paid their membership fees. There are only 157 items, although by the time of the meeting 227 abstracts or titles had been received, and 166 were used in the Congress Number of *THE JOURNAL* [21 (1953) 478 and 558]. Only two papers were to be allowed per member, and in general that rule seems to have been applied.

Analysis of the list with respect to the lengths of the item—a crude analysis, merely by differences of the page numbers in the general index—shows that 10 items are either abstracts or extremely short papers, 1½ pages or less (bare titles were eliminated), and 82, or 52%, range from 2 to 5 pages. Of the longer ones, 39 are from 6 to 10 pages, 21 range from 11 to 22 pages, and 4 are really long. Of these, one (101 pages) is a report on Spanish Guinea which—we are informed—was paid for by the government entity concerned; one (55 pages) is the report of the leprosy section of the health department, which really paid for the book; while the other two (30 pages each) were simply submitted that way by the authors. Altogether, there

is here a great deal of valuable material, although an attempt to evaluate the items would be out of order.

The arrangement is by subjects, as the programs of the congress sessions were supposed to be, although a few dislocations are to be found. A purely historical article on inoculations of man appears in the immunology section, one on the importance of dermatology in the antileprosy campaign was assigned to the "social assistance" section, and one on experiments with the lepromin reaction is in the therapy section. However, the number of such dislocations is small.

The book is very well printed, on excellent paper, and the pictures are reproduced as well as the material provided would permit. The cover is of paper, except for a limited number of copies for libraries and such that were bound in cloth. The weight is considerable (about 3.6 kgm.), so it would be well for the owner to have his copy bound to preserve it. An ample number of copies was made for distribution to medical libraries, medical schools, etc.—in addition, of course, to the members of the congress, each of whom is entitled to one. The surplus is available for sale to anyone interested, at \$9.00 a copy. Remittances should be made to Dr. Felix Contreras, Moreto 15, Madrid.

—H. W. W.

**Classics in Clinical Dermatology.** By WALTER B. SHELLEY, Associate Professor of Dermatology and Syphilology, University of Pennsylvania, and JOHN T. CRISSEY, Instructor in Dermatology and Syphilology, University of Pennsylvania. Preface by JOHN T. STOKES, Emeritus Professor of Dermatology and Syphilology, University of Pennsylvania. Springfield, Illinois; Charles C. Thomas, 1953, 485 pp. (\$10.50).

This beautifully printed book gives us, in an unusual form, an appropriate synthesis of the lives and works of a group of authors who have helped with their scientific contributions in the building of the structure of modern dermatology.

The group is admittedly heterogenous, since there is an alternation of great masters who devoted their lives to the cultivation of this specialty, and more modest figures some of whom were only incidentally associated with dermatology. A common tie, however, binds them together, namely, that each of them contributed to the individualization of a morbid entity in the vast field of dermatology.

It is necessary to bring out this fact because it explains the omission of some celebrated men who also did original and creative work but who were not so fortunate as to have their names given to a new dermatosis, as for example Pautrier, McKee, and Mischer. This is the criterion of selection.

The book has two well-defined and equally interesting aspects. On the one hand, it deals with the human aspect of these outstanding men, describing their personalities with their faults and virtues, giving us a little intimacy with them. This biographical part is the most entertaining and perhaps the most original.

The other aspects of the book, that which concerns the scientific work of these men, is without question the more important. As a source of information it is invaluable, since it offers the reader the original version of each of many contributions which constitute the basis of modern dermatology. Thus, one may read here the masterly description of Kaposi when he individualized idiopathic hemorrhagic multiple sarcomatosis or the varicelliform eruption, the brilliant exposition of Brocq in presenting his pseudo pelada or the first cases of parapsoriasis, and many other contributions which have today become historical. It may be surprising to encounter names that have never been associated with dermatology, such as that of Nelaton to whom we owe the first description of the perforating plantar ulcer.

Although this book may not satisfy all equally, it is nevertheless meritorious both for the valued information it offers and for the entertaining and novel form in which it is presented.

—J. M. M. FERNANDEZ

**Memoria de la Tercera Conferencia Panamericana de Leprologia.** Conference held in Buenos Aires, December 9-15, 1951. República Argentina, Vol. II, 1953, 365 pp.

This volume, although dated 1953, appeared only in July 1954. On the first page, in the form of a preface, there is a notice apologizing for the delay and thanking those who had contributed to the volume. It contains the papers presented at the last two scientific sessions of the conference, held on December 5 and 6, 1951. There were 27 papers in the fifth session, all dealing with various aspects of the antileprosy campaign and social welfare. Then come the reports of the committees and their discussions. These reports have already appeared in *THE JOURNAL* (20 (1952) 266-269). The last part of the volume is devoted to the solemn closing session presided over by Dr. Carlos Vitone, representing the Minister of Foreign Affairs; it contains the usual speeches. Lima (Perú) was decided upon as the place for the next conference, to be held in 1955. Those interested in getting this publication should apply to Dr. Leonidas Llano, Ayacucho 1477, Buenos Aires.

—G. BASOMBRIÓ