

## BOOK REVIEW

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**A Manual of Tropical Medicine.** By THOMAS T. MACKIE, GEORGE W. HUNTER, III and C. BROOKE WORTH, with 24 Collaborators. Philadelphia and London: W. B. Saunders & Co., 1954. Second edition. Pp. xxii + 907, with 304 illustrations, 7 in color.

Chapter 24 of this manual, on leprosy, is a concise and refreshingly authoritative account of the disease—with emphasis on the histopathology but with an ample account of clinical aspects, classification, and diagnosis, and an adequate summary of chemotherapy. There are 10 clear and informative illustrations, 4 of them photomicrographs. Fig. 62 does not show either the “veritable microcolonies” of bacilli or the persistence of accessory skin structures attributed to it in the text; perhaps it was cropped too severely.

Though no author is credited with the writing of this chapter, Dr. H. W. Wade is listed as the “collaborator” in the field of leprosy, he apparently having revised this chapter of the first edition. This accounts for the separation of “maculoanesthetic” leprosy from “tuberculoid” leprosy, the differentiation based chiefly on the ground of flatness or elevation of lesions. Some minor tuberculoid lesions are classed with the maculoanesthetic group; others, more elevated, are included in the tuberculoid category. A text reference to the crippling and deformity occasionally seen in advanced maculoanesthetic cases is made somewhat confusing by reference (obviously a typographical error) to the single excellent illustration of lepromatous leprosy.

Differential diagnosis is discussed only briefly in the limited space available, but an adequate enumeration of diseases for which leprosy may be mistaken—or *vice versa*—is given including meralgia paresthetica by its relatively unfamiliar eponymic designation of Bernhardt’s syndrome. Nasal mucosal smears are recommended without mention of the necessity of firmly scraping the mucosa and without warning of the fact that a negative smear does not exclude leprosy and a positive smear may consist of nonpathogenic acid-fast diphtheroid bacilli.

With these minor, even trivial reservations, the whole chapter is unhesitatingly recommended as a reliable, authoritative, concise and lucid account of leprosy. It is a credit to the handsome textbook in which it appears.—HARRY L. ARNOLD, JR., M. D.

**Chantal.** By GUY DES CARS. Translated by Reine de Roussy de Sales. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1954, 284 pp.

This atrocious book, trash born of ignorance and effrontery, would not be mentioned at all in these pages but for the fact that it is said that a movie is to be made of it. That *would* be unfortunate. —H. W. W.