

BOOK REVIEW

Histologie der Hautkrankheiten. By OSKAR GANS and GERD-KLAUS STEIGLEDER. Vol. I. (Normal anatomy, structural development, post mortem appearances, dermatopathias, dermatitis.) Heidelberg: Springer-Verlag, 2nd. Ed., 1955; 726 pp. 258 illus., price D. M. 285.

This book is considered a standard textbook of dermatological histopathology in Germany. The first edition was published in 1925; delay in production of the second edition has been due to the war. In it Gans has continued the work he began as a student of G. Unna, who in 1894 published the standard *Die Histopathologie der Hautkrankheiten*. This book, by Gans, contains (pp. 520-530) the first German description of the histopathology of leprosy since Klingmüller's section in Jadassohn's *Handbuch der Haut- und Geschlechtskrankheiten* (1930). Preceding the section on histopathology is a brief introduction of the clinical symptoms, pathogenesis and differential diagnosis.

The text is accompanied by well-reproduced drawings which show the fine structural details better than photographs can; a majority of the 258 illustrations are in color. The production of the book is excellent. —ERNEST KEIL

A Bridge of Compassion. By A. D. MILLER. London: Mission to Lepers, 1955.

The work of the Mission is the Bridge of Compassion, and it is described as having three arches: those of physical healing, human fellowship, and eternal hope.

First is described the origin of the Mission from small beginnings some 80 years ago. Now its work extends to twenty-four countries. It acts in co-operation with forty-nine missionary societies and the churches that have been established through them. It sees with gratitude the changing attitudes of governments and people from paralysed fear or indifference to constructive reasonable service.

Under the heading Arch of Physical Healing are described the great advances that have been made in the treatment of leprosy in recent years, so that even in the advanced stages of the disease recovery can be expected.

Then there is the Arch of Human Fellowship. The interdenominational nature of the Mission, and the common appeal which this cause makes to all Christians of whatever denomination, creates a fellowship which bridges across all minor differences.

The third is the Arch of Eternal Hope. Many interesting stories are gleaned from Mr. Miller's recent tours in Africa, India and the Far East. But the sad tale is also told of the plight of post-war Korea, where leprosy is one of the most urgent problems.

The last chapter speaks of the Bridge Beyond. An island leprosarium in Japan is described where a small but increasing number of patients are Christians. The pastor, himself a patient, described their Church as a fellowship which began with thirty members when the church was built.

The final paragraph speaks of the Latin Vulgate version of Isaiah's record about the Messiah: *Nos vidimus eum quasi leprosum* (We beheld him leprous). "Yet in that tortured and despised body flowed the very life of God for man." —E. MUIR