

BOOK REVIEW

La Lèpre. By ROLAND CHAUSSINAND, Chief of the Leprosy Service, Pasteur Institute. Preface (first edition) by Noël Bernard. Paris, Expansion Scientifique Française. Second edition, 1955, 310 pp. Fr. 3,800.

This interesting monograph, considerably larger than the first edition,¹ departs in a refreshing way from the classical textbook. The principles of the subject are given, but much space is devoted to the views and research of the author. When he differs from accepted opinion there is usually logic in his nonconformity. He rejects, for example, both the classification adopted at the Madrid congress and that suggested by the WHO Expert Committee because, he believes, both elevate "borderline" leprosy to greater importance than it should possess. He objects to the WHO Committee's classification for the further reason that it places the reactional state in tuberculoid leprosy as a variety of that type (a thing, he points out, not done with respect to lepromatous leprosy) whereas he regards it as only an episode in the evolution of that form of the disease. Borderline leprosy, in the author's opinion, is merely an unstable, evolutionary phase of the tuberculoid type, and he considers it a variety of it and not an independent form.

He adheres to his own modification of classification by which leprosy is divided into two primary types: "lèpre bénigne" and "lèpre maligne," the former including tuberculoid and indeterminate cases, the latter lepromatous. Borderline (TB) appears as a subsidiary class of tuberculoid. The primary classification is made by clinical and bacteriological examinations and the lepromin test. Histopathologic examination is required for more precise classification. In the opinion of this reviewer the author's modification has much to commend it. The difficulty with all refinements of classification is that the natural evolution of leprosy is largely a matter of guesswork at the present time. Life appears to be too short and too crowded to follow substantial numbers of cases from earliest development to full maturity and thus ascertain the facts.

In the section on immunology there is a carefully thought-out schematic representation of the varieties of allergy in different classes of subjects: (1) not infected with *M. leprae*, (2) infected with *M. leprae* and lepromin negative, and (3) infected with *M. leprae* and lepromin positive. In each of these three classes the type of allergy is correlated with the existence or absence of antecedent infection with *M. tuberculosis*. This representation, together with the views given in the discussion of prophylaxis with BCG, lead to the conclusion that reactivity to lepromin is attributable exclusively to infection with either the tubercle or the leprosy bacillus. If this is intended, it is not, in the reviewer's opinion, consistent with the facts.

The arrangement of the book is a little unusual. There is a section on immunology and a later one on immunologic and serologic examinations. The mass phenomena of leprosy, that is, such matters as age, sex, race and climate, are placed under etiology, whereas usually they are part of the epidemiologic description. There is a brief section on epidemiology but it includes only recommended indices of prevalence and incidence and a discussion of sources of infection from the viewpoint of history of contact. Statements regarding the proportion of cases that can be traced are an indirect and incomplete means of expressing the risk of exposure. It is a less desirable method than the presentation of attack rates for groups varying

¹ The number of pages has been increased from 212 to 310, and they are materially larger; and the number of illustrations (not counting diagrams) is up from 75 to 130, of which 18 are in color. The book is bound in cloth, whereas the first edition was paper-covered, so physically it is much improved.—EDITOR

in respect to the nature of their exposure, such as are given in the section on etiology under the subtitle: "Pouvoir infectant des deux types de lèpre."

The clinical descriptions are excellent. There are fine illustrations both in color and black-and-white. The book has an up-to-date bibliography and is well indexed; the table of contents follows these sections, at the very end. It can be highly recommended to all students of leprosy. —J. A. DOULL

Mention is also to be made of a 44-page brochure (undated, but 1955) on high-quality paper whose gray cover bears only the name LA LÈPRE, but whose title page states that it was distributed by l'Ordre de la Charité (whose president, Raoul Follereau, contributed a 2-page introduction), and gives two titles: (1) *Condensé de Léprologie a l'Usage du Médecin praticien*, by Chaussinand, and (2) *Requête a l'O. U. N. pour la Defense et al Rehabilitation social des Lepreux*, by Follereau.

The latter (6 pp.) is the appeal to the United Nations which had been approved in 1954 by the French parliament.

The former (26 pp.) is apparently a reprinting of an article with the same title which had been published in *Semaine d'hôp. Paris* in that year (Vol. 30, pp. 4405-4412), abstracted in THE JOURNAL [23 (1955) 342]. Along broad lines it describes the evolution of leprosy; its division into allergic (tuberculoid and indeterminate) and anergic (lepromatous) forms, as in the author's book reviewed above; diagnosis; and treatment. There are 22 pictures, 5 of them in color, which medium although expensive is beyond compare for the demonstration of the clinical lesions. One of the other pictures (No. 18), labelled "advanced lepromatous leprosy," is the finest representation—as regards the case itself, the photography and the reproduction—of a marked borderline case which the present writer has ever had the privilege of seeing. It shows extensive, irregularly geographic, elevated bands over the lower back, the backs of the forearms, and especially on the buttocks and upper thighs, in which are numerous clear-cut "immune" areas described in the legend as appearing as if shaped by a punch. In the book (Fig. 54) it is described somewhat differently, as "lepromatous evolution of a tuberculoid leprosy," lepromatous infiltrations around old tuberculoid lesions, the inner edges of the infiltration [around the sites of old tuberculoid lesions] being sharply demarked, the outer edges diffuse. —H. W. W.

Culion, 1906-1956. A record of Fifty Years Work with the Victims of Leprosy at the Culion Sanitarium. By Members of the Staff and Patient Body. Manila, 1956; 109 pp., with 2 text-figs. and 3 inserts; paper.

This publication was put out in connection with the Golden Jubilee of the inauguration of the Culion Sanitarium (then the Culion Leper Colony) on May 29, 1906. The Organizing Committee decided to issue a "historical and informational brochure" that would be of more than ephemeral value, one which would constitute an informal record of antileprosy work in the Philippines with special reference to this unique institution.

Arranged in 6 groups are 24 contributions, of single or multiple authorships, by a total of 25 writers, 8 of them patients. The contributors took special interest in the earlier decades, that involving a great deal of study of old records and delving into the recollections of the older inhabitants. Consequently, there is coverage of developments before Culion was started and while it was being established, the physical development of the institution, the organization of the various services of the administration and inside the colony, and the expansion of the technical work in the early 1920's—largely due to the special interest of the then Governor-General Leonard Wood, who originally was a physician himself—when the chaulmoogra ethyl esters were introduced.

No attempt is made to recount in full the development of the regional leprosaria beginning late in that decade, which resulted in decrease of the inmate population of Culion from practically 7,000 in 1937 to less than 5,000 when war

intervened late in 1941. The disastrous war period which, between "leaves" and deaths, left the colony with a little over 2,000, is for the most part passed over briefly. The postwar period is something of an anticlimax, although not without its problems, especially the Culion-born children and the many inmates who do not wish to leave when eligible to do so, and tend to avoid eligibility by irregularity of treatment.

The scope of the coverage is indicated by the chapter titles: history of leprosy work in the Philippines; establishment and organization of the colony; history of construction at Culion; movement of population; care of Culion-born children; development of medical and related services; highlights of antileprosy treatment; the Pathological Section; the Leonard Wood Memorial; the Catholic chaplains and the St. Ignatius Academy; work of the Sisters of Charity; the Protestant Mission; the Anti-Leprosy Society and the Red Cross; the Culion Advisory Board; agricultural activities; procurement and distribution of food supplies; the Public Works Section; peace and order; public education; scouting; Culion Branch Library; postal and telegraph services; the Culion Ice, Fish and Electric Co.; and problems of nonleprosy children and negative inmates. There are five appendices, including the Philippine laws and regulations pertaining to leprosy and lists of personnel, past and present.

The comment of one reader may be quoted: This book "is intensely interesting, dramatic and deeply moving. [It is] remarkably simple, direct and effective. . . . a valuable historical document."

Anyone who would care to have this brochure should address a request to the Chief, Culion Sanitarium, Palawan, Philippines. —H. W. W.