

BOOK REVIEWS

História da Lepra no Brasil. III. Período Republicano (1890-1952). By HERACLIDES-CESAR DE SOUZA-ARAÚJO, Chief of the Laboratory of Leprologia, Instituto Oswaldo Cruz, Rio de Janeiro, Departamento de Imprensa Nacional, 1956, 715 pp.

This monumental work on leprosy in Brazil has now reached its third large volume, a book of 715 pages covering the history from 1890 to 1952. A large part of the present volume comprises the transcription of scientific articles, reports, parliamentary discourses and polemics over the gravity of the problem of leprosy in Brazil, many of which are inaccessible even to their own authors, and are unknown to the majority of workers in this field. A thousand copies have been printed by the Ministry of Education and Public Health of Brazil; of these some have been distributed gratuitously to medical libraries around the world and the rest will be sold and the entire proceeds added to the capital fund of the International Society of Leprology.

Dr. Souza-Araujo, who has published over 250 articles and other works since 1911, mainly on leprosy, is to be congratulated on the completion of this great task, the fruit of a long and varied experience, and of years of intensive collection and preparation of material. He says in his Preface: "There is enough matter left over for a fourth volume, in large part classified chronologically by states; but occupied as I am . . . with a variety of labors, I have no hope of being able to publish it. I prefer to leave that for younger leprologists who have supported the onus of the leprosy campaign since 1931."—[From *American J. Trop. Med. & Hyg.* 6 (1957) 591.]

Dermatología. By J. GAY PRIETO. Barcelona, Madrid, Valencia and Lisbon: Editorial Científico Médica, 4th ed., 1957, 790 pp.

In every Spanish-speaking country and in many other parts of the world this textbook on dermatology is very well known. It first appeared in 1943 as an outstanding thesis on dermatology and venereology. Subsequently the expanded work was divided into two volumes, one dealing with dermatology and the other with venereology.

In this extensively revised and enlarged fourth edition of *Dermatología* we find innovations such as a well-written foreword outlining the concept of the study; a documented chapter on the embryology of the skin; an addition devoted to its physiology; an excellent, up-to-date discussion of dermatologic therapy; the expansion of the study of eczema with new sections devoted to contact, endogens, etc.; a study of the systemic diseases, especially collagenosis, which has attained so much importance largely through the work of the dermatologists; and development of the excellent chapter on leprosy.

The chapter on leprosy, carefully revised and enlarged, is comprehensive. All the facts that a doctor needs are clearly and distinctly given, all questions of present-day importance being analyzed and discussed. Besides giving briefly everything we consider obvious or dogmatic, the author has not hesitated to express his personal opinion on subjects that are still under discussion.

An aspect of this book which should be pointed out is the maturity of its seasoned writing. This edition is well printed, with the innovation that it has many colored plates.

—FELIX CONTRERAS