

## BOOK REVIEWS

Transactions of the VII International Congress of Leprology, Tokyo, November 1958, Tokyo, Japan; Tofu Kyokai (Japanese Leprosy Foundation). 1959, pp. XXXX and 518.

This handsome book in arrangement follows the general lines of the transactions of the Havana and Madrid Congresses, but physically it is much less bulky and more manageable, since they each contained more than 1,300 pages. It has all the usual principal features, including the addresses made at the opening and closing ceremonies. There are two indices to the material published. One is a consecutive table of contents in the front of the book (corresponding to the "general index" of the previous congress transactions), in which the papers are listed—as they appear in the book—in groups corresponding to the topics of the agenda. The other index, at the end, is of authors and discussers, the page numbers helpfully set in three different type faces according to the nature of the items referred to.

A foreword by Dr. Kikuo Hamano, executive secretary of the National Organizing Committee, relates the circumstances which led unexpectedly to the holding of the Congress in Tokyo in 1958, instead of 1963 as originally planned. An editor's note tells of the rules adopted for the preparation of the volume, two important ones being (a) that of the papers submitted for the congress only those which had been presented in the sessions should be published, and (b) that papers and discussions in the Japanese language should be translated into English. It also gives credit to the several persons who assisted in the work, and says that Mr. Yo Yuasa (a medical undergraduate who was actively helpful in assisting the International Leprosy Association representatives and otherwise before and during the Congress) served as secretary of the Editorial Committee and had the over-all responsibility for the production of the book.

It is pointed out—a fact which everyone will appreciate—that the task of preparing such a book, inherently formidable in any case, is multiplied many fold when it is in a language other than the mother tongue of those working on it. The remarkable thing is that so few and so unimportant evidences of that difficulty are to be found. In dealing with the papers the Committee's task was primarily to reproduce as accurately as possible what was in them, and it is apparent at times that it would have been beneficial if there could have been more editorial intervention.

In the foreword, mention is made of the fact that CIOMS had extended financial support to the International Leprosy Association for its part in preparing for the Congress (as it did again, later on, in connection with the publication of the Congress Number of *THE JOURNAL*). By obvious oversight nothing is said here—although the matter is fully covered in full in the remarks of Mr. A. Donald Miller at the closing ceremony—of the invaluable assistance given, before and during the actual meeting, by WHO experts who were sent to Tokyo for the purpose in advance of the WHO Inter-Regional Leprosy Conference which was convened immediately after the Congress.

The papers dealt with (pp. 19-454) total 80. In a few instances they are represented only by editorial notes, because the presentations made at the sessions are represented by reports of technical committees or because the manuscripts were not turned in. Most of the papers are the full ones, as was the intention for all cases, but several appear to be the condensations that were made to keep within the 10-minute time allowance for speaking in the sessions. In each section the symposium papers first, with a parenthetic note after the last of them indicating the beginning of the proffered ones read in the corresponding open session. The distribution of the 80 items by the agenda topics is: classification, 4; bacteriology and pathology, 22; immunology, 13; therapy, 16;

epidemiology and control, 18; and social aspects, 7—it being evident, as was realized when the program was set up, that certain items would more appropriately have been classed as "miscellaneous." All but 14 are in English; of the exceptions, 7 are in French, 6 in Spanish, and 1 in Portuguese—for which the printer provided the necessary special type forms.

Members of the Congress will be interested to see the full papers of which only condensations could be read in the sessions, and especially to see, in English, the papers and discussions that were presented in Japanese.

The book is a handsome one, pleasant to handle, well bound in greenish-blue hard covers, the page size about 7 by 10 inches. The paper is a good-quality coated stock, and the reproduction of pictures is excellent. The production is a highly creditable one, and will grace the leprosy section of anyone's library. Members of the congress are to receive the book without charge; about 100 copies, we are told, are available for purchase by others at the unit cost of \$12.50 for printing and postage.—H. W. W.

*Synthese de l'Allergie et des Allergides dans les Maladies Générales et Cutanées.* By JEAN TISSEUIL. Ancien Directeur de l'Institut d'Hygiène de Nouméa, de Cayenne et de la Lèpre de Bamako. Paris: Librairie le François, 1958. Pp. 90; paper.

In the introduction it is pointed out that disease appears in an organism rendered allergic by the causative antigen—that the incubation period is the period of sensitization of the organism, and that the allergy makes the disease. Allergic phenomena in leprosy are discussed, among many others.

Part 1 deals with allergy generally, the mechanisms of allergic phenomena, and numerous particular reactions including that of Mitsuda in leprosy. Had Mitsuda made a comparative study with the tubercle bacillus, it is said, he would doubtless have established a correlation between his reaction and the lesion produced by the first inoculation of the tubercle bacillus in a guinea-pig, which likewise takes some 15 days to develop. He would also have observed a difference on second injection, for the Koch phenomenon does not occur in leprosy. The idea of immunity is attached only to the Koch type of reaction, not to the late one. Considering the early Fernandez reaction in relation to the tuberculin reaction, the former is held to be without value.

In view of the early experiences of Nicolle with monkeys inoculated with leproma material, of Bargehr who induced reactivity to lepromin by repeated testing, and of Wade at Culion and Feldman in the United States with lepromin in dogs, the author concludes that the late positive Mitsuda reaction does not signify immunity; it is a phenomenon of sensitization, but it is not a Koch phenomenon and has none of the characters of an allergide.

The Mitsuda reaction is negative in lepromatous leprosy because the tissues tested are already parasitized. In tuberculoid leprosy the reaction is positive—but late—in new tissue between the lesions to which the infection is confined; but, on the contrary, on injection of lepromin into a tuberculoid lesion causes a precocious reaction.

Part 2 deals with allergic factors in various infections and diseases. Diseases are grouped as cyclic, noncyclic and periodic, the last of which includes syphilis, tuberculosis and leprosy. Lepromatous leprosy develops in three periods, primary, secondary and tertiary; no such division is made for tuberculoid leprosy, which is a localized infection and not a diffuse one like the lepromatous form.

Clinical reactions in leprosy are discussed as allergic conditions, but—apart from degree—only one kind of reaction is recognized for each of the types. The reaction in lepromatous leprosy is attributed to substances of the lepromas in contact with the capillaries. The tissues must be sensitized to the substances of the lepra cells, which are ruptured in large numbers. The tuberculoid reaction is to tuberculoid leprosy what the lepra reaction is to lepromatous leprosy, but the two kinds differ as much as do the two disease forms. The mechanism is not discussed.

The definition of the "allergides" involves considerable discussion. Two kinds with respect to time are usually recognized, the early one which appears in a matter of hours, and the late one which reaches its acme in 2-3 days; but the author would class both as "early" and reserve the term "late" for those which are maximal after from 7 to 15 or more days. Some authorities recognize two kinds according to nature, acute inflammatory and chronic granulomatous, but the author disagrees because allergic reactions are essentially acute. The granuloma is never primary but always follows an inflammatory reaction, apparently to destroy the debris of the inflammation. Such granulomas have been observed after the intradermal injection of distilled water, or bouillon with or without glycerine, or of healthy skin.—H. W. W.