REVIEWS

LA LEPRO. Special Issue, 1960, March.

This publication is another of the occasional issues of this periodical, entirely in English, put out in substantial paper covers, of "selected articles" although this one does not bear that designation. The similar ones put out in 1955 and 1956 were marked Vol. 24 and Vol. 25, respectively; this one is marked "Vol. 26-28." There is no explanatory editor's note.

The articles, of which there are eight, are not simply English translations of some which had appeared in the Japanese language in regular issues of the 1957-1959 period. Two, it is true, are marked in a footnote as from 1957, and another as from 1958, but the other manuscripts are marked as received late in 1959. Some are presentations of material already published in accessible sources, in general extended and brought up to date for the present purpose. Others are not in our reference file, although they may have been previously published in other Japanese periodicals.

These articles cannot be adequately abstracted here, but for those of which there have been known previous publications references are given. (For brevity, the Transactions of the VII International Congress of Leprosy, Tokyo, 1958, are referred to as "Tokyo Trans."

The Journal is referred to as "I. J. L."). The titles here are as in the present publication, not in previous ones. Of some, abstracts have been made and appear elsewhere in this issue. Anyone interested would do well to refer to the Special Issue itself.


Ogata, T., Fukushi, K., Yukawa, T., Iibuki, K., Takano, K. and Naka, T. Relationship between tuberculosis and leprosy as seen from the standpoint of pathology. Pp. 19-28. This presentation, based in part on a previous one, has apparently not previously been published. The conclusions are used for an abstract which appears elsewhere in this issue.

Yamanaka, K. On the immunological relationship between tuberculosis and leprosy with special reference to the effect of BCG administration upon the prophylaxis of leprosy. Pp. 29-46. This article contains a well-considered exposition (with 38 references), of the views regarding the lepromin reaction of an important sector of Japanese students of the matter, and the whole should be read because it is too briefly and incompletely represented by the summary used as an abstract elsewhere in this issue.


Matsui, A. Influence of serum protein fractions of leprosy patients and rats infected with experimental murine leprosy on the growth of Mycobacterium leprae. Pp. 67-78. Another apparently new contribution, dating from 1957, of which there is an abstract elsewhere in this issue.

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This massive compilation of the literature of the Mitsuda reaction by the indefatigable librarian of the Department of Leprosy Prophylaxis of São Paulo, demands more than passing notice. It is not a mere list of references, for it contains a great many copied abstracts or summaries, often long, usually in the original language although some of those from The Journal are the Spanish versions of the original English summaries. There is an indispensable 5-page authors' index.

The compilation is amazingly comprehensive, although not entirely complete—which would be unreasonable to expect of any one source, however diligent. For example, there is no reference to Mitsuda’s original article (1919), although it was recently reprinted in English translation in The Journal. P. Hayashi’s original articles were also in Japanese and consequently are not included, but his first generally available report (This Journal, 1933) is noticed only by the reference. On the other hand, doubtless, anyone will find, as we have, many items which are not in his file.

By count, there is a total of 531 items. Of these, 107 are references only; the rest (67%) have abstracts or summaries. Of these 192 are in English, 98 in Portuguese, 95 in Spanish, 36 in French, and 3 in other languages.

The period of coverage indicated in the title is too long by a decade because of the inclusion of a report by Mantoux and Poutrier (Leprosy, 1919) on an intradermal test made with Roff’s “lepromin,” which was a product very different from the one devised later by Mitsuda.

The document, the pages 8.5" × 12", is unfortunately awkwardly because it is held together only by two heavy staples through holes in the margin. For library use the thing will of course be bound, but hoping that one can readily do a useful serving job after making two more holes, one near each end. Presumably copies can be obtained from the source, although no sale price is indicated. The address is Biblioteca, Departamento de Prophylaxia da Leprosa, Avenida Ademar de Barros 361, São Paulo, Brazil.—H. W. W.


Drum Call of Hope is the dramatic story of African leprosy missions, illustrated with striking photographs.

In order to bring to American readers a full and authentic interpretation of leprosy missions the author, the American Leprosy Mission’s public relations director, traveled for six months in Africa, visiting fifteen leprosy settlements in nine countries. A sensitive observer, she talked with doctors, nurses, and patients, finding her way to the heart of the nine poignant stories that make this book a stirring narrative.

Miss Clemen has a way with words, and the stories are all presented with dignity and sympathetic understanding, and not once is the odious word mentioned. It can be done!—[From Curville Star, March-April 1960.]