

BOOK REVIEW

Leprosy in Theory and Practice. By R. G. Cochrane, M.D., and T. Frank Davey, M.D., editors. Bristol, John Wright & Sons, Ltd., 2nd, ed., 1964; Baltimore, Williams and Wilkins Co., 1964, 2nd ed., 1964. Pp. xviii + 659, 247 illus. 115s. or \$16.75.

With T. Frank Davey as co-editor and 26 new contributors, plus all but six of the original 24, Cochrane has brought forth a handsome new edition of the only comprehensive modern textbook of leprosy. Sixty per cent heavier than the first edition, and 50 per cent longer, it has eight additional chapters, and some of the original ones have been revised or rewritten. Khanolkar's chapter on pathology, for instance, is longer by half in the new edition.

The greatest gain, perhaps, is in the new material: chapters on genetics, by S. G. Spickett of Cambridge; on immunology, by Gardner Middlebrook of Colorado and O. K. Skinsnes of the University of Chicago; on reactional states, by W. H. Jopling; on the Schwann cell, by C. E. Lumsden of Leeds; on rehabilitation, plastic repairs, and physical and occupational therapy by N. H. Antia, E. W. Price, W. F. Ross, K. V. Nimbkar and D. J. Ward, all active leprosy workers in India or Africa; on radiographic changes by D. E. Paterson (the original author) with the help of C. K. Job of Vellore; and on prevention, by C. M. Ross (Africa), and C. M. J. Vellut (India), and Dharmendra.

Lepromin and reactions to it, unexplainably omitted almost entirely from the first edition, now receive a six-page chapter, written by S. W. A. Kuper, a pathologist in London, which will enlighten leprologists but may confuse the inexperienced. The assertions that the Mitsuda reaction "can also occur in some healthy persons" and that "high or moderate degrees of lepromin sensitivity *need* not (italics added) imply infection with *M. leprae*," are potentially confusing understatements, as are the remarks (p. 187) that "tuberculin and lepromin sensitivities . . . are not always in complete agreement, especially in healthy people," and that "the absence of lepromin sensitivity in no way reflects immunity." BCG vaccination for prophylaxis of leprosy is dismissed with chilling skepticism in 30 lines.

A. G. M. Weddell, D. G. Jamison, and Elisabeth Palmer have rewritten and condensed their excellent chapter on sensory and neurohistologic changes, and this is followed and supplemented by a lucid and scholarly development of the Schwann cell thesis by Lumsden, with superb illustrations. Mitsuda's magnificent atlas is strangely missing from the references to this section.

S. R. M. Bushby's chapter on chemotherapy is greatly expanded. As before, Cochrane himself discusses therapy; this material is supplemented by Davey's new chapter on appraisal of the newer drugs, H. F. West's chapter on the use of corticosteroids, a new chapter by Cochrane on neuritis, and Jopling's chapter on reactional states. The first edition's less than 80 pages dealing with the management of deformities, have been expanded to 120 pages, written by Paul W. Brand and others of comparable experience, ability and authority.

Cochran's own chapter on prevention deals more gently with BCG inoculation than does Kuper's. Again, however, there is no reference more recent than 1956.

The Madrid Classification of leprosy, which was not even given in the first edition, is reproduced in this volume, but the statement is made, mysteriously, that it was "not adopted." Several alternative proposed classification schemes are given in tabular form, including a new four-color version of the senior editor's own graphic schema.

The technics of preparing various kinds of lepromin, also omitted from the first edition, are now provided in Chapter X and also in Appendix IV. Appendix VI furnishes some therapeutic recommendations for the management of complicating or intercurrent disorders. It is devoutly to be hoped that the dermatologic recommendations will be turned over to a dermatologist for revision in the third edition.

The binding of this new edition is outstandingly handsome, and the paper of better quality than in the first one. The index has grown from 13 pages to 20. The text is remarkably free from typographic errors, and of editorial slips I noted only the consistent

spelling of Aretaeus as "Araetus," and the omission of Hawaii among the States of America having indigenous foci of leprosy. All in all the book is a splendid piece of work, and indispensable to anyone having occasion to deal with leprosy or its consequences. The first edition is definitely superseded!—HARRY L. ARNOLD, JR., M.D.

Chirurgie de la Lèpre (Surgery in Leprosy). A. Carayon, P. Bourrel, J. Languillon and E. Touze. Paris, Masson & Cie., 1964, 188pp., 151 figs. 40F.

We are glad to see this comprehensive book on the surgery of leprosy. It is particularly valuable because of the use of two languages throughout (French and English). It is well illustrated and has a bibliography in each chapter. This is a book for experienced surgeons and would be an excellent background for those who are undertaking serious investigations into the possibilities of surgical rehabilitation in leprosy. The authors have wisely written mostly about their own experience and have not attempted much description of the work of others. In each case they quote quite frankly their own experience of success and failure, and it is this particularly that gives the book its present value and will allow subsequent editions to be of increasing value as the authors' experience widens.

We would like to commend particularly the excellent section on the anatomy of the nerves and of the pattern of the bundles within the mixed nerves. This section will be of great help to careful surgeons who wish to explore the possibilities of operations on nerves for the prevention or correction of paralysis. We feel that a great deal more work needs to be done before nerve operations can be widely recommended, particularly those that require the stern disciplines of meticulous dissection and the understanding of microscopic neuroanatomy, such as therapeutic fascicular neurolysis. We would also caution against the removal of specimens for biopsy from nerve trunks. Diagnosis can usually be confirmed by the biopsy of nerve sheath without removing any part of the bundles.

In the sections on bone lesions and on trophic changes there is a good analysis of the various causes of bone absorption and trophic ulcers, although we would have liked to see a section on the effects of soft tissue fibrosis. Changes in arteriograms, as well as bone absorptions are often associated with fibrous changes in the soft tissues secondary to bruising with or without open wounds. In the section on trophic ulcers of the foot a good deal is written about surgical interference for the correction of trophic ulcers, but careful reading shows that the authors themselves do not usually operate on these cases but rely on conservative treatment. We would agree with this view.

In the section on hand surgery there is a very fair review of the possible operative procedures, which are well described. It seems a pity to us that the authors seem willing to accept and recommend a procedure for clawhand correction that corrects only the open-hand position while doing nothing to restore the normal mechanism of closing of the hand. It is time also that the operation of wrist arthrodesis for leprosy deformity be completely abandoned, except for the occasional case of subluxation of a neuropathic joint.

Finally we would suggest that in the reconstruction of the nose the descriptions of the bone reconstruction should be supplemented by a description of the scar release on the inside of the nose with restoration of the lining. Without this preliminary operation only very limited benefits can be obtained from the bone graft.

I must congratulate the authors on careful work and a fine production. This book meets a real need and should find a place on the bookshelf of every surgeon working in countries where leprosy is endemic.—PAUL W. BRAND.