

BOOK REVIEWS

Atlas de Lepra. Javier Guillen Prats. Sanatoria de Fontilles, Alicante, Spain, 1966. U. S. \$5.00. pp. 121.

This well illustrated publication represents an assemblage of "fascicles" previously published in the *Revista de Leprologia* (Fontilles). As such it is based largely on the wide experience of that famous institution, and reflects the classification system there employed. Unfortunately, as set up, it lacks a table of contents and an index, so that it is difficult to assess the balance in presentation. The opening chapter is devoted to the bacteriology and histopathology of leprosy, and the microscopic anatomy of the major types of the disease is illustrated by photomicrographs of biopsy specimens. Successive chapters are devoted to Contagion, Inoculation, Classification, the Lepromatous Type of Leprosy and Variations in its Forms; Other Localizations of the Lepromatous Type, including Mucous and Ocular Lesions; of Lymph Nodes, Osteoarticular and Visceral Lesions, Gynecomastia and Lepra Reactions; the Tuberculoid Type, and Reactional Episodes in this form of the disease; the Indeterminate and Dimorphous Groups; Childhood Leprosy; and, finally, Diagnosis. The text is highly condensed in format and in small type, too small for easy reading. The illustrations on the other hand, numbering about 150, are well chosen, clear, and as informative as black and white reproductions can be. They furnish an exceptionally detailed illustrative summary of the wide variety of leprotic lesions seen in the long experience of institutions like the Fontilles sanatorium. The author notes in his preface that the text is intended to present elementary considerations of leprosy, suitable for nonspecialists, while the major value of the book must rest on its

iconographic presentation of the wide variety of lesions seen in the disease. In that objective Dr. Guillen Prats has been eminently successful.—E. R. LONG

Cliniques Africaines. M. Payet, P. Pene and M. Sankale, with collaborators. Paris, Gauthier-Villars, 1965, pp. 505.

This is a comprehensive publication dealing with the natural history, pathologic character, epidemiology and medical care of diseases characteristic or prevalent in the African continent. Sections, composed of chapters by different authors, are devoted to general considerations, parasitic infections and epidemic diseases, generalized ailments, ophthalmology, neuropsychiatry, and public health. A chapter of 13 pages, by A. Basset and R. Camain, is devoted to the characteristics of leprosy in black Africa. This chapter includes considerations of its epidemiology, clinical forms, and special features such as the role of liver puncture in diagnosis and prognosis, and the pathogenesis of skeletal lesions. Problems in diagnosis and therapy are outlined. The extraordinarily high prevalence of leprosy in Africa is stressed, and the authors are frankly skeptical with respect to recent optimistic predictions on the eradication of leprosy in the continent. Environmental and social conditions are such that the progress made in countries with well disciplined public health practice cannot be expected in Africa. The authors point out that all experience shows that leprosy is far from a purely medical problem, depending, rather, on social progress for its control. Eradication ultimately will come only through social and economic development in the African communities.—E. R. LONG