

Book Review

Symposium on Leprosy. Proceedings of a symposium jointly sponsored by the University of Bombay and the Vocational Rehabilitation Administration of the Department of Health, Education and Welfare, U.S.A. February-March 1965. Edited by N. H. Antia and D. K. Dastur. Published by Shri T. V. Chidambaran, Registrar, Fort, Bombay 1. Printed by Shri V. G. Moghe, Bombay University Press, Fort, Bombay 1, India, Bombay 1967, pp. 180.

This publication, as the preface notes, records the complete proceedings of a multidisciplinary symposium on leprosy held at the J. J. Group of Hospitals under the auspices of the University of Bombay. The editors note also that the concept of the symposium originated at Carville, Louisiana, U.S.A. when Dr. R. G. Cochrane and one of the editors, Dr. Dastur, discussed the merits of a scientific consideration of all aspects of leprosy at a single meeting. Dr. Cochrane suggested the University of Bombay, where many investigators work on different aspects of leprosy, as an ideal site for a symposium on this broad basis. The proposal was warmly welcomed by the administrative authorities of the University of Bombay, and the gathering was arranged so that it coincided with visits in Bombay by investigators with special competence in several of the fields to be discussed.

The text consists of 180 pages, of which approximately 100 are devoted to original papers, which are in essence lead articles for the discussions to follow. The discussions and opening and closing comments, taking some 80 pages, are remarkable for the care exercised in their transcription, and indeed in many ways represent the essence of the symposial gathering.

The lead papers were given by well known authorities who were either perma-

nent staff members of Indian institutions or visitors on term appointments. The discussions were by all of these and a few invited visitors from elsewhere. The lead papers ranged from Dr. Cochrane's introduction of the history and epidemiology of leprosy to Mr. F. D. Pavri's review of the principles of rehabilitation methods. Included between were papers on socio-economic problems of leprosy patients (N. B. Shah), genetic aspects (L. D. Sanghvi), experimental studies (K. J. Ranadive), clinical features and classification (R. G. Cochrane), peripheral neuropathology (D. K. Dastur), electrodiagnostic studies (S. C. Divekar), metabolism of *M. leprae* derived from leprosy nodules (B. M. Braganca), risk of infection and chemoprophylaxis (N. Figuerdo), antigenicity of *M. leprae* (S. S. Rao), the I.C.R.C. bacillus and opsonins (C. V. Bapat), differential diagnosis in dermatologic practice (S. C. Desai), medical treatment (R. G. Cochrane), surgical rehabilitation (N. H. Antia), the hand in leprosy (G. S. Ahern), and the plantar ulcer (W. M. Lennox).

The lead papers reviewed, in concise form, recent progress in the different fields, with comments from each author's own experience. The discussions were lively, furnishing that free give and take that unites practicing physicians and research workers in a common cause, and stimulates all of them. This spirit of unity was cemented in closing remarks by the chief organizers of the symposium.

There are numerous illustrations, which are of fair quality. The reviewer gets the impression that expense was spared in the quality of paper and binding, for which no apology need be made in these days of extensive and costly publication. The printing is clear, and at no point crowded.—E. R. LONG