

BOOK REVIEWS

Leprosy. Documenta Geigy, Acta clinica. Stanley G. Browne. Basle, Switzerland: J. R. Geigy S.A., 1970. 78 pages. Illustrations; 7 black & white, 101 color.

The number of very good color illustrations in this useful summary on leprosy provides one of its main attractions. These illustrations include a great number of clinical manifestations of the disease drawn from a number of places in the world and also include good histopathologic photomicrographs. The booklet includes sections on historical and epidemiologic aspects of leprosy as well as descriptions of the various clinical types and brief summaries of the pathologies of these. The section on immunity in leprosy covers just over two pages and provides a bare minimum of known facts. The pathogenesis of deformity is also only briefly mentioned. A brief summary on treatment mentions most of the drugs which are useful in leprosy while giving directions for their dosage and use in only one or two instances.

This attractive booklet should serve as a useful introduction to leprosy, and it should stimulate interest to further familiarity with the manifestations and treatment of leprosy.

The Macrophage. Nancy N. Pearsall & Russell S. Weiser. Philadelphia: Lea & Febiger, 1970. 204 pages; 16 black and white illustrations, most of which are from electron microscopic photomicrographs. Bibliography of 699 references. Index.

This is a useful, concise discussion of macrophages covering their morphology, functions and role in immunity and disease. As such, it should be useful to leprosy workers who are concerned with an understanding of the immunity and pathogenesis of this disease.

Mononuclear Phagocytes. Ralph Van Furth, editor. Philadelphia: F. A. Davis Co., 1970. 654 pages including index. U.S. \$23.00.

This book records the proceedings of the International Conference on Mononuclear Phagocytes which was held in Leiden, The

Netherlands, in Sept. 1969. Forty-four participants are listed and 39 presentations are included. These deal with the structure and biochemical aspects as well as the origin and kinetics of these cells. The role of mononuclear phagocytes in inflammatory response, induction of antibody formation, delayed type hypersensitivity reaction and the effect of some anti-inflammatory drugs are discussed. Selected references are included at the end of each section. This work should be of considerable interest and use primarily to research workers concerned with the immune processes of leprosy and to those who wish to pursue more deeply the fascinating role of these cells in disease generally.

Disability in Antiquity. Fareed Haj. New York: Philosophical Library, 1970. 188 pages. U.S. \$6.50.

This book is a study of the major medical and social causes of disability in the Near East during the Middle Ages. Communicable diseases such as trachoma, small pox, leprosy, tuberculosis and poliomyelitis are covered as are also injuries through war and corporal punishment. The section on leprosy covers ten pages. It frequently uses the word "leper." There are a few references to Islamic literature included and these may be new to many readers.

The Ultrastructure of Human Skin. A. S. Breathnach, Professor of anatomy at the University of London. London: J. & A. Churchill; in U.S.A.: The Williams & Wilkins Co., Baltimore, exclusive agents, 1971. 398 pages including index. U.S. \$43.25; £ 15.

This atlas-style book consists of 304 black and white electron microscopic photomicrographs with descriptive discussions of each. These discussions comprise the total text of the work. As indicated by the title, the book covers the anatomy of the normal human skin and its appendages. The illustrations are well-printed and detailed. The work should prove to be a useful reference for those dealing with the ultrastructural anatomy of the skin in disease even though no illustrated disease processes are included.