

## REVIEWS

FERNANDEZ, J. M. M. [Impressions on the present state of the leprosy problem in the United States of America, Hawaii, Philippines, Japan, India and Brazil.] Rosario, Argentina, Editorial Médica, 1935, p. 173.

In 1932 Fernández was given a scholarship by the "Patronato de Leprosos" in order to extend his studies in leprosy. In this little book of less than 200 pages he gives a very clear and ordered account of his travels, showing that he has taken full advantage of them. The book comprises eight chapters, three of which are devoted to the Philippines. In each case he gives a good idea of the epidemiology of the region, which he discusses in detail, the prophylactic measures taken against leprosy, the economic aspect of the matter, and the investigations that are being undertaken. Manalang's theories about the contagion and spread of leprosy are set forth clearly and completely. He also gives a good idea of the different opinions prevalent in each country concerning the value of chaulmoogra oil, and of the scientific way in which treatment is carried out at the Culion colony in the Philippines. He finishes his book with Brazil, showing the thorough way in which they have begun their campaign against the scourge.

—G. BASOMBRIO

HOLLANDER, J. S. *Leprabestrijding, een kritische beschouwing.* [The fight against leprosy, a critical review.] (Thesis offered for the degree of Doctor of Medicine at the University of Utrecht.) Utrecht, 1935.

The author argues that because of lack of adequate knowledge of the most essential characteristics of leprosy the fight against it cannot be based on proved facts. Moreover, the efficiency of the systems of prevention that have been tried out in the past has not been proved conclusively in practice. With regard to the need of further investigation, he does not hesitate to utter a well-meant exaggeration: "There has hardly been any effort made to study fundamentally the essentials of the disease." He ends his thesis with a plan of action calling for a direct attack on the little-understood disease; this involves early recognition and treatment, wide-scale treatment in dispensaries and improvement of the hygienic condition of the people. This monograph, though it contains little that is new, is a clear summary of the great hiatuses that still exist in our knowledge of leprosy and of the constantly growing doubt of the value of what were thought to be known as facts up to a short time ago, and gives evidence that the study of leprosy must extend beyond the individual and be better organized.

—P. H. J. LAMPE