de Armauer Hansen.

Cien años después de su descubrimiento del bacilo de la lepra su crédito está todavía arraigado en la conciencia del mundo científico internacional. Por consiguiente es del todo natural oírle en ocasión del Décimo Congreso Internacional de la Lepra.

When now part of the Universidad de Bergen deposit this crown, I do not subraying that for our university is a privilege and a place to take part in the celebration of the recuerdo de Armauer Hansen.—Professor A.J. HENRICHSEN

Compilation of Leprosy Equivalent Designations

This compendium of designations used to indicate leprosy is presented, in part, because the designations are useful and interesting. However, their choice by society and their meanings also provide some understanding of their societies' concept of the disease, particularly in the more ancient past when the terms were introduced.

It is clear that terms extending far back into the histories of the more ancient cultures are less secure in their translation as "leprosy" the more ancient their use, even if they are in current use as designations for this affliction. It is generally true that in ancient times the diagnosis of leprosy was not as specific as at the present for the disease was not delineated according to present understanding. In all probability other moieties, which are not leprosy, were included in the diagnostic designation. Nevertheless, the fairly even tenor of thought and meaning of the designations chosen by these disparate societies suggests that leprosy was probably the "core" disease in the moiety. It would, indeed, be very remarkable if in so many societies, so widely separate, leprosy was absent and the designations used therefore due to some other undefined entity.

Where scientific, medical descriptive evidence, because of its absence through lack of development, fails to define leprosy as being present, etymologic and sociologic findings must at least be accorded status as evidence for the presence of this disease.

GERMAN: Aussatz, Put out or eject; i.e., those afflicted are outcast.
Maalzeij, maalde = male aptus (unfit, useless).
Miselsucht (miser = misery).
Maselsuhi, måse (spot).

OLD HIGH GERMAN:

Hruft, ruf, hruabi (scab).
Uz-sazeo, uz-setze = outcast.

MIDDLE HIGH GERMAN:

Velsiesch, feldsiesch, sundersiesch (in the fields, separate outside the wall).
Gut Lede, Guteleutmann, Guteleufrau.

FRANKISH:

Horn-giebruder, lit. "horn-brother," perhaps from the sometimes associated scabies horn-like masses as illustrated by Danielssen & Boeck in their atlas.

GOTHIC:

Ruts-fill (painful, ulcerated skin).

OLD ICELANDIC:

Likthrd (Lik = corpse, thrd = foul, rotten, tainted; similar to an odorou s corpse).

NEW ICELANDIC:

Holdsvéiki (flesh sickness).
Limaflallsyki (sickness with limb mutilation or loss).

NORWEGIAN: Speciálskhed (hospital sickness).
   Radeksje (lit. evil disease). The old designation for tertiary syphilis and therefore applied to leprosy also till the two conditions were differentiated (Hjorts: Norsk Mag. Laegevidensk., 1840).

DANISH: Speciálske

SWEDISH: Speciélsk

DUTCH: Malaatschheide, this designation is associated with malade (vide infra). Akkersiekte (field disease - again suggesting separation).


FRENCH: Lèpre, ladrie (Lazarus = ladrus, ladrie, mal ladre = mal Saint Lazare, from which are derived malade and maladrieree).
   Misellerie (chronic, misellus = misery).
   Capot (gafeis, capots, caqueux, cacous, all terms derived from the Spanish gaf, gafedud from gaf of Latin, meaning "hook, claw") defined as leprosy by Guy de Chauliac, 1383.

ITALIAN: Lebbra

SPANISH: Mal de San Lazaro

PORTUGUESE: Gafeira

HEBREW: Tsara'ath, zaraath. Tsara is the stem from which translation into leprosy is derived. Zaraath = sor'at apparently meant to be stricken by God, to be outcast and originally referred to moral or spiritual blemish. Leprosy apparently came to personify this spiritual blemish and when the Hebrew Old Testament was translated into Greek as the Septuagint in about 200 B.C. the Greek term lepra was used as the nearest equivalent. (Skinsnes, O. K. IJL 38 [1970] 310-312, IJL 38 [1970] 294-307, Leprosy Rev. 35 [1964] 175-181. The latter contains references to dissident interpretations.)

OLD EGYPTIAN:
   Poun, paeni, puni, aap (Ebers Papyrus).

PHOENICIAN: Feu-hu (robber, thief).

OLD BABYLONIAN:
   Isruba, isrupa
   Li'bu (Codex Hammurapi). Divorce was permitted a man if his wife had this disease, the character of which has not been established. Either men or women could be afflicted.

ASSYRIAN: Asakku, an unidentified disease having to do with uncleanness though not necessarily referring to leprosy, though it may have had this connotation.

AKKADIAN: Gar(a)bānu, a severe skin disease given to the care of a special physician. Sometimes used to connote "One who is guilty." Used also in the following sense: "... if a woman (who has garbhānu) has given birth to a sehhānu (malformed) child, either male or female, a sinful man has had intercourse in the street with this woman."

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2The words spedalskhet, spild, spilsgen are variant pronunciations of words indicating diseases requiring hospitalization.

3These "Fertile Crescent" terms have, for the most part, been translated as representing leprosy though there is as yet inadequate clinical characterization associated with their use to make such translation secure (Skinsnes, O. K. Leprosy Rev. 35 [1964] 106-122).
Garðbu, a disease characterized by a white spot or pustule as a first sign.

Epaqu, an odious skin disease. Children may be born with it.

Epaqunum, literally means “epaqu-like.”

Sennitu, also sernitu, a skin disease. Entymologically related to Hebrew tsara’ath. One feature of the disease was an eruption on, or discharge from, the nose.

Šiljha­ñeti, often refers to “consumption” but the word means “sloughing of flesh.”

Šaljaršubbū, a Sumerian loan word in Akkadian, literally meaning “covered with dust” or “scaly.” Sufferers with this disease were expelled from the city and the word has odious connotations as used in curses.

Isrubaa = šaljaršubbū
Saharsuppaa = šaljaršubbū

SANSKRIT:

Kushām, maha-kushā (large, round spots).
Śvīram, svairam (white spots).
Mandālakam, skin disease with round spots or macules.
Galitakkushām, galitakkushām (galita = degenerated, decayed, loss of flesh; thus advanced leprosy).
Ślipāda, ṣlílipāda (elephantiasis).

HINDUSTANI:

Carak, god (elephantiasis).
Rukta kasta
Rapta-piti, mahabyadhī (great sickness).

PERSIAN:
Pēs, pēsegī, ḏschezam

ARAMEIC:
Garbla

SYRIAN:
Arjaja (lion-like), arjaja

TURKISH:
Gudām (disease in which the limbs shrink or waste away = mutilation).
Baras (white), bahaq and wadah (the white one).
Sau (evil disease).
Mubtali (sorely tried).

ARABIC:

Qawūbī (according to Ali-Habbas [great Persian physician, c. 994 A.D.], benumbed and cracked lesions).

NEW ARABIC:
Bala (affliction).

ALGERIAN:
Baras

MOROCCAN:
Djdem

GREEK:

λεπρα (lepra) derivative of λεπίς (crust) is associated with the Indo-European word lap (to peel off).
Leuke (white).
Satyriasis, from the redness of the cheeks and the “irresistible and shameless impulse ad coitum.” (Aristotle, Aretaeus, Ebstein).
Leontiasis, prominent, thick, bald eyebrows hanging downward and retracted eyelids to give the appearance of an enraged lion (Aretaeus—Ebstein). Ali-Habbas also compared to the great, white eyes as of lions.
Ophiiasis, alopecia as in the form of a snake.
Ποδος ἡποκλεις (Herclean, unconquerable disease).
Morbus phoenicicus, Phoenician sickness (Hippocrates).
Elephantiasis Graecorum (the skin of leprosy is similar to that of an elephant). The meaning of this term has been confusing; it does not mean that the limbs or ears are likened to those of an elephant.

NEW GREEK:
Lova, lovia (outcast).
Elephantiasis, lepra arubum, morbus phoeniceus (Galen). Morphaeae (like μορφή = form or μορφή = black).

Guiba, skerjevo

Poklossag (hellish affliction).

Li-feng (li = severe, oppress; feng = paralysis). Perhaps the oldest Chinese term, being used in the Nei Ching which is attributed to Huang Ti (trad. B.C. 2698-2598) but probably compiled about 500 B.C.

Lai-ping (lai = scab, eruption, ping = sickness). Term used by Ko Hung, 281-341 A.D.

Ta-ma-feng (ta = great, ma = numbness, paralysis. feng = paralysis). Also, Ma-feng.

Tien Ying (Tien = Heaven, ying = response, punishment). Implies that the disease is a punishment from Heaven for moral dereliction, usually sexual.

Tsui-kuo (tsui = sin, retribution, kuo = transgression, to pass by). Also used for venereal disease.

Hung-t'ou-feng (hung = red, t'ou = head, feng = paralysis).

Kessei-surai (elephantiasis).

Akushilu (evil disease).

Famushi-rai (dry scab eruption).

Shira-hiloki (shira = white, hiloki = person, kokumi = ?). A very old designation.

Gobyo (go = punishment for family misdeeds or misdeeds of a prior incarnation, byo = sickness). The term usually refers to leprosy but may also refer to venereal disease and even to other very severe illness.

Ki-ruen

Asi-asi-dzo-ia

Tute or puega (elephantiasis of groin).

Lasomimi (elephantiasis of scrotum).

Tofi

Gudagam

Panau, kaddl, sakit besaar

Kuku ñin, tickadirsa, gudók, uthó

Kutta (from Indian kushtha) nu nar (miserable skin disease).

Anar gia yav gar (ulcerative big disease).

Chambedes (spotted leprosy).

Gemkom (nodular and mutilating leprosy).

Ngerengere, twuhenna

Mat-pake (Chinese evil).

Mat-ali (disease of the chief which came from a Chinese cook).

Lehata

Usudi

It is evident that these representative designations from African languages are so limited as to be simplistic. Accordingly, a broader effort has been initiated which already encompasses 22 designations from 23 languages, as well as variants of these. Their etymologic derivations are difficult to determine. When generous collaborators have had opportunity to provide sufficient material with which to initiate a more meaningful compilation, it is hoped that a significant listing can be published.
ETHIOPIAN: Qomata (Amharic, the Semitic language which is the official language of Ethiopia).
Qurfi (Galla, a Cushitic language of the Afro-Asian family, used by nomadic, pastoral people of Ethiopia).

CAMEROON: Mulongo (in language of Douala, sea port in W. Cameroon).
Kuituro (in Hausa, an Afro-Asiatic language used by Negroid people of the Sudan).
Sam (in Yaoundé city area).

GUYANA: Cucubay, cocobay or cocobe (the name is derived either from an island in the Bahamas where leprosy is very common, or from the “coco” fish which was regarded as the cause of leprosy).
Mal rosso (red sickness).
Boasi or baasi

ESTONIAN: Pidali-tõbi (hospital disease as in spedal, above).

RUSSIAN: Skorb (sorrow).

—OLAF K. SKINSNES

Etiopathogenesis of Histoid Leprosy

There appears in this issue of the Journal another in a series of studies on histoid leprosy that have appeared in this Journal since the original description by Wade.1 Through all these reports the concept that this is a variant histopathologic expression of lepromatous leprosy seems fairly consistent. Nevertheless, the underlying reason for this unexpected histopathologic response remains obscure.

One wonders, and we have suggested the possibility to several authors, whether or not this response may be related to a tendency to keloid scarring in these patients. Being a very chronic disease without any great tendency to tissue necrosis, leprosy may provide a stimulus evocative of such a tendency if it is present. Thus far no study has appeared in which such a possible relationship has been examined. Future studies of histoid leprosy might explore this possible relationship by reporting on the presence or absence of evidence of such tendency and by reporting on whether or not there is an increase in mucopolysaccharide in histoid lesions as has been reported to be characteristic of keloids.2

—OLAF K. SKINSNES