

## BOOK REVIEWS

**Noussitou, F. M., Sansarricq, H. and Walter, J.** *Leprosy in Children*, Geneva: World Health Organization, 1976 (ISBN 92 4 154053 2), 22 pages, 13 colored plates. Price: Sw. fr. 9.-, or US \$3.60. French and Spanish editions in preparation. Available through WHO in Geneva or booksellers.

This brief, well balanced, essentially clinically oriented presentation should be very helpful in alerting general physicians to the clinical appearances and practical aspects of the care of children with leprosy. It is also concerned with epidemiology, diagnosis, classification, prognosis, treatment and psychosociologic aspects. The main points

stressed are: 1) a significant proportion of all leprosy cases start in childhood; 2) practically always lesions in children are initially benign and bacteriologically negative; 3) complete regression with minimal or no sequelae takes place under treatment in a very high proportion of cases. Spontaneous cure is a common feature in infantile leprosy but a significant number of untreated cases evolve to adult forms of the disease with high risk of infectivity and serious disabilities; 4) the methodical examination of children, mostly by means of school surveys in leprosy control programs, has considerable advantages.—Olaf K. Skinsnes