

BOOK REVIEWS

Mehendale, M. S. *Health Education and Social Aspects in Leprosy Work*. Poona, India: Poona District Leprosy Committee, 1981, 179 pp. Price: Rs 24.

This is a most interesting and potentially helpful book for a wide range of professionals who are striving to assist leprosy patients and their families during and following their diagnosis, hospitalization, and treatment for leprosy. The author obviously has a great deal of significant experience in the field of social work and rehabilitation, and the contents of this book will be helpful to persons in India and perhaps other countries of the world, particularly the developing countries. This is one of the few books presently available on this subject and hopefully will be the forerunner of other such publications.

The author attempts, and rather successfully, to stress the need for the total understanding for the individual in the context of his total environment. This includes the body, mind, and spirit. He stresses also the importance of the integration of all social services in order to maximize the benefits for the leprosy patient and his family. He has ample evidence that age old attitudes can be changed with specific programs that are described. The book is in a textbook form with specific and useful suggestions that are clearly outlined. In addition to the role of the professional, the author also describes the role of the former patient who has been successfully rehabilitated who can be extremely valuable in helping the general public to gain new knowledge about communicability, treatment, and effective rehabilitation of the leprosy patient.

Although the book is written primarily for use in India, I feel that it does have broader usage. The bibliography is useful and does include addresses of publishers and the costs of books. There is also a helpful listing of supplies that are necessary in health education and of addresses where these supplies can be ordered.

It is encouraging that Mr. Mehendale reviews legislation that certainly impacts on the welfare of many disabled persons, including those with leprosy. This hopefully

can lead persons to be more active in the area of social action that could benefit many persons who have been ill and disabled. The information regarding beggars is not universally applicable, in my opinion, since, fortunately, not all countries in the world have the problem of persons exploiting their own deformity to benefit themselves. The dynamics of this kind of behavior, of course, is applicable to other persons who are desperately searching for methods of survival.

This book is easy to read, has much helpful information, and is recommended for those persons who are striving to assist the leprosy patient and his family in improving their life adjustment.—V. M. Bahlinger

Thompson, P. *Mister Leprosy*. Dunton Green, Sevenoaks, England: Hodder and Stoughton Ltd. and The Leprosy Mission England and Wales, 1980, 220 pp. Price: £ 1.50.

This biography of Dr. Stanley G. Browne is a popular Christian history of a 45 year career spanning several continents, the pre- and post-sulfone eras, and the evolution of leprosy research into a serious scientific discipline. The book provides a very detailed account of the life of Dr. Browne.

The particular success of this volume, however, is in evoking the immensity of the problem facing medical missionaries working in Africa during the 1930s and 1940s. At the same time that they were being called upon to adjust to living conditions very different from those to which they were accustomed, they were additionally faced with the dilemma of dealing with multiple clinical problems in peoples who often had never been exposed previously to modern medicine. The level of success enjoyed by Dr. Browne and others working under these conditions is a tribute to their tenacity and determination to be of help to those whom they had come to serve.

There is a unifying theme to this book. It is that service can only be performed by the whole man, i.e., by the person who is committing himself spiritually, physically, and intellectually to what he is doing.

Another lesson comes through in conjunction with this concept, however. The list of honors accorded to Dr. Browne is lengthy; they merely symbolize recognition by others of what truly has been important to Dr. Browne: enjoyment, pride, and belief in the value of work, daily and unceasing, in the service of others.—G. Gordon