

BOOK REVIEWS

Gatti, J. C., Cardama, J. E., Balina, L. M. and Jaled, M. M. *Actualizaciones Leprológicas*. Buenos Aires, Argentina, 1983. 96 pp., 249 references, 30 color figures. (in Spanish)

Los autores, conocidos dermatólogos y leprólogos argentinos, se han dado a la tarea de elaborar una monografía actualizada sobre lepra y en idioma español.

La obra consta de 21 capítulos que comprenden todos los aspectos de la leprología moderna explicados en forma concisa y clara.

El capítulo I habla de generalidades: definición, historia, etiopatogenia y las diferentes respuestas a la lepromina. El capítulo II trata de la clasificación de los casos comparando la clasificación de Madrid, 1953 y la de Ridley-Jopling en 1966, esta última usada sobre todo con fines de investigación.

En el capítulo III se habla del bacilo de Hansen y de los índices bacteriológico y morfológico. El capítulo IV trata de la histopatología en todas las formas clínicas. La inmunología tan de moda se trata en el siguiente capítulo, haciendo hincapié en la posibilidad de diagnósticos tempranos mediante la prueba de Abe (modificada por Norberto García).

Continúan los modernos aspectos de lepra experimental en especial los intentos de inoculación a animales y la controversia sobre la posible existencia de lepra autóctona en armadillos y monos.

De pronto la secuencia se interrumpe y aparece en el capítulo VII el diagnóstico antes de la clínica. En este capítulo se habla del estudio de las alteraciones de la sensibilidad, de baciloscopías e histopatología. Se vuelve atrás para tratar los aspectos clínicos de las variadas formas de lepra ilustradas con didácticos cuadros. En cada tipo o forma clínica se mencionan además de las lesiones cutáneas, las neurales, los datos de laboratorio y el pronóstico.

El capítulo IX habla de los episodios reaccionales y en mi opinión es un poco confuso pues aunque se clasifican estos episodios tomando en cuenta el mecanismo inmunológico involucrado, se mezcla terminología antigua como reacción tuberculoide, tuberculoide reaccional, con la mo-

derna como lo que llaman reacción "reversal" (en español tal vez sería mas correcto decir reacción de reversa). Dentro de las reacciones tipo II mediadas por complejos inmunes, se habla del eritema polimorfo, nudoso y del fenómeno de Lucio y otros síntomas de la clásica reacción leprosa, por cierto, se comete un error repetidamente publicado en otras obras: confundir el nódulo con la nudosidad que es la lesión elemental del eritema nudoso.

Los capítulos interesantes por originales o por lo menos poco tratados en otras obras son los que tratan de la lepra en los niños y en la mujer embarazada. Continúan capítulos sobre la agresión del bacilo a otros órganos, a los nervios periféricos, mucosas y ojos. En el capítulo XVI se repiten algunos puntos ya tratados al hablar del laboratorio en lepra y se regresa al diagnóstico cuando se habla de las enfermedades que deben ser diferenciadas de la enfermedad de Hansen.

Muy actualizado el capítulo del tratamiento y no se descuidan aspectos de prevención, rehabilitación y epidemiología, en cambio apenas se soslayan los interesantes aspectos sociales. Termina la monografía haciendo una breve revisión del problema de la lepra en Argentina.

Las referencias bibliográficas son muy abundantes, las fotos y los cuadros bastante buenos y demostrativos, el lenguaje claro, preciso y conciso, evitando los tecnicismos y sobre todo los aspectos mas especulativos de la enfermedad.

Por todo ello resulta este trabajo de los autores argentinos de gran utilidad no sólo para leprólogos, sino también para estudiantes de medicina y médicos generales o toda persona que esté de alguna forma involucrada en la lucha contra la lepra.

Es de felicitar a los autores por el esfuerzo realizado que ha cristalizado en esta magnífica monografía.—A. Saúl

Guinto, R. S., Abalos, R. M., Cellona, R. V. and Fajardo, T. T. *An Atlas of Leprosy*. Tokyo: Sasakawa Memorial Health Foundation, rev. ed., 1983, 58 pp.

This 58-page atlas is a superb collection of clinical and histopathologic photographs covering the Ridley-Jopling spectrum of

leprosy and including an excellent section on differential diagnosis. The atlas is dedicated to the memory of the late Dr. Ricardo S. Guinto, and the photographs are taken from the collection of the Leonard Wood Memorial Laboratory in Cebu, Philippines. In the original (1981) edition of this atlas, individual photo-processing was utilized, making it too costly for mass production. The present edition is done in color printing. This change has resulted in only a slight lowering of the quality and will enable the atlas to be produced in quantity. The atlas should provide excellent training material on leprosy.—RCH

One volume of *An Atlas of Leprosy* (revised) will be given gratis to all participants coming from the "developing countries" to the XII International Leprosy Congress in Delhi. Those participants from the "industrialized" countries may obtain a copy, if there are any spare copies available, with a payment of a small handling charge.—Yo Yuasa, Executive and Medical Director, Sasakawa Memorial Health Foundation.

Leiker, D. L. and McDougall, A. C. *Technical Guide for Smear Examination for Leprosy by Direct Microscopy*. Amsterdam: Leprosy Documentation Service (INFOLEP), Royal Tropical Institute, 1983, 34 pp.

The production of this guide for leprosy was stimulated by the excellent guide for sputum examination for tuberculosis which was first published by the International Union Against Tuberculosis (IUAT) in 1978. The examination of skin smears for leprosy, a neglected activity in many leprosy control projects, can conveniently be carried out in the same laboratories or centers which are responsible for sputum examination in tuberculosis. For this reason, an attempt has been made to make this "leprosy" guide essentially compatible with the IUAT guide for sputum examination. As with the techniques described for tuberculosis, there is room for modification and adaptation of the techniques described here for leprosy, but we have tried to present the subject along lines which we believe to be generally acceptable to experts in various parts of the world.

Many cases of leprosy are not positive on

slit-skin smear examination, and in such cases, the diagnosis is established on clinical grounds alone. However, the examination of smears is of paramount importance in lepromatous leprosy, some types of borderline leprosy, and in indeterminate leprosy: a) at the onset of the disease, for confirmation of diagnosis and classification; b) in following progress under treatment; and c) in the examination and assessment of patients who relapse, whether due to unsatisfactory intake of prescribed drugs, or to drug resistance. The examination of smears has, furthermore, gained in importance since the recent publication of WHO recommendations on the chemotherapy of leprosy for control programs, which require a basic classification of leprosy patients into those with paucibacillary and multibacillary forms of the disease.

The guide has been written in terms which should be understandable to a fairly wide range of readers with varying educational backgrounds, but the technical nature of the subject has made it difficult to use basic English. It is therefore possible that its greatest value, at least in this present edition, will be to those who are concerned with teaching, in-service training, and supervision. However, we hope it will also be available to medical students, newly qualified doctors, medical assistants, laboratory technicians, and to schools of public health in all leprosy-endemic countries.

The authors hope that this guide will stimulate bacteriological examination in leprosy as a routine procedure, and that it will contribute to the standardization of techniques. Comments and suggestions for improving the quality of future editions are most welcome.—(From the Preface)

Proceedings of the 3rd International Workshop in Training of Leprosy Workers in Asia, Bangkok, Thailand, 18–28 January 1982. Tokyo: Sasakawa Memorial Health Foundation, 1983, 140 pp.

The Third International Workshop on Training of Leprosy Workers in Asia was held 18–28 January 1982 in Bangkok, as were the previous two workshops in this series of training.

It is a worldwide general trend now that leprosy work is being handled more and more by the general health workers rather

than by specialized leprosy workers. Whatever the reasons behind such a move, this means that training on leprosy of health workers of all ranks and categories is becoming increasingly important. Because of the huge numbers of trainees involved, the right choices of teaching methodologies become critical if the training is to be cost effective, and one such teaching method which seems to offer a great possibility and maximum feasibility is teaching/learning by SIM (Self Instructional Material).

This workshop was run under the expert tutorage of Dr. Charles R. Ausherman, an expert on teaching methodologies in the United States, and Dr. W. Felton Ross assisted by Miss Jeanette Hyland, both experienced trainers of leprosy workers, together with a group of educational experts in Thailand headed by Prof. Prapont Pi-yaratn. Both Dr. Ross and Miss Hyland and most of the Thai experts were involved in our last workshop. Nineteen participants from nine countries apparently worked very hard and every one of them managed to produce a prototype of their own SIM by the end of the workshop which they intend to develop further in their own countries.

I sincerely hope that this Proceedings will serve not only as a record of what happened during the workshop itself, but also as instructive and informative reference material for those interested in the training in general, and on leprosy in particular.—
(From the Foreword by Morizo Ishidate)

Proceedings of the 4th International Workshop on Leprosy Control in Asia, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 7–11 June 1982.

Evaluation of Leprosy Control Programme and OMSLEP Information System. Tokyo: Sasakawa Memorial Health Foundation, 1983, 197 pp.

The Fourth International Workshop on Leprosy Control in Asia was held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, under the joint sponsorship of the Ministry of Health, Malaysia; the World Health Organization, through their Regional Offices of the Western Pacific and Southeast Asia; and Sasakawa Memorial Health Foundation.

The objectives of the workshop were threefold. The first one was to discuss the current situation with difficulties and shortcomings in recording and reporting of leprosy control activities in the countries in Asia. The second one was to introduce OMSLEP system which was developed by Prof. Lechat and Ms. Misson, two of the main resource persons of this workshop, in close collaboration with WHO, as a basic model for information systems on leprosy activities applicable hopefully to any endemic countries in the world. The third and the main objective of the workshop was to seek possibilities and to work out ways to adopt OMSLEP system in the countries represented at the workshop, which were 16, with necessary modifications agreed upon by the participants.

It is perhaps too early to judge the outcome of the workshop which was held less than nine months ago. However the reactions of the participants including the resource persons were favorable and the response to the follow-up activities so far are encouraging.—(From the Foreword by Morizo Ishidate)