

BOOK NOTICES

SCHLOSSBERGER, H. Chaulmoograöl: Geschichte, Herkunft, Zusammensetzung, Pharmakologie, Chemotherapie. (Reprinted from Heffter, Handbuch der Pharmakologie, Ergänzungswerke, Bd V.) Berlin, J. Springer, 1938, 141 pp. Paper covers, RM 15.

The author, a section director in the Robert Koch Institute in Berlin, has produced a remarkably comprehensive monograph, orderly, thoroughly documented and well indexed, of knowledge of the oils to which the name "chaulmoogra" applies, obtained from plants of the family of the Flacourtiaceae—of the "chaulmoogra oils and related vegetable fats." Nothing like it has been produced before.

The history of the subject, from ancient and more recent writings in India and China, covers the ground with extraordinary thoroughness. Even those who have paid special attention to the subject may well be surprised at the length of the tables of species of *Taraktogenos*, *Hydnocarpus*, *Coloncoba*, *Carpotroche* and other related plants, and also of reports of chemical and physical constants of the oils that are collected here. The chemistry of these oils is no less thoroughly dealt with, including even the synthetic substances produced by Perkins and by Roger Adams and his group. So condensed is the section dealing with the therapeutic side of the matter that the references (all of which appear as footnotes in this publication), fill quite 40 percent of the 20 pages. Properly for a work of this kind, twice as much space is given to the pharmacology and toxicology of these oils, the effects on single-cell organisms being included as well as the findings with laboratory animals. The last section is devoted to the "chemotherapeutic effectiveness [of the oils] in infectious diseases," covering experimental animal work (necessarily, confined mainly to animals infected with tuberculosis), and the effects in leprosy, tuberculosis and a few other human diseases; and it ends with a discussion of the mechanism of their therapeutic action.

In preparing this exhaustive review Professor Schlossberger has done a definite service. It must find a place—bound, for preservation—on the

shelves of every medical library that makes any attempt to completeness, and in the hands of every leprosy worker who wishes to know what is known about the drugs upon which he places main dependence in treatment work. Even so, one feels that the publishers are due a word of commendation for bringing out a work that is not, after all, of immediate concern to a very large audience.

—H. W. WADE

KLINGMÜLLER, VICTOR. *Lepra. Uebersicht seit 1930.* (Ergebnisse der Leproforschung seit 1930; Ergänzung zum Beitrage "Lepra" in "Handbuch der Haut- und Geschlechtskrankheiten Bd x/2, 1930.) Reprinted from *Zentralbl. f. Haut- u. Geschl.* 57 (1938) 321-424. Berlin, Julius Springer, 1938. Paper, RM 9.60.

This pamphlet is an addendum to Professor Klingmüller's monumental compilation which covers so exhaustively the literature on leprosy up to 1930. It brings the matter up to 1937 in style and form in keeping with that of the original publication. No further explanation or commendation is required by anyone familiar with the original work. This pamphlet will probably be acquired by many who do not possess the other. —H. W. WADE

DE SOUZA LIMA, LAURO. *Sobre a Moderna Terapeutica Anti-Leprotica. 1ª Monografia dos Arquivos do Sanatorio "Padre Bento."* Departamento de Profilaxia da Lepra do Estado de S. Paulo. Soc. Impressora Paulista, Ltda, S. Paulo, 1937, 91 pp.

This monograph, evidently the first of a series planned for publication from the Padre Bento leprosarium in São Paulo, Brazil, of which the author is the director, covers most thoroughly the field of the therapeutics of leprosy from the viewpoint of an experienced leprologist who has made full use of the recent literature on the subject. It is the outcome, he says, of his efforts, since taking charge of the therapeutic work of the institution in 1931, to collect all that has been published on the subject, and of his experience in applying what was thus learned.

The publication is really a double-barrelled one, the main thesis running concurrently with a series of 176 footnotes, referring to and quoting from the literature, which despite the smaller type often fill more than one-half of the page; altogether they occupy 36 percent of the total space and constitute quite one-half of the text matter. There are nine chapters: (1) orienting principles, of which the four are (a) the cooperation of the patient, (b) the general resistance, (c) the special treatment, and (d) the particular features of advanced cases, early self-arrested cases, abortive lesions and juvenile leprosy; (2) special treatment; (3) the intradermal infiltration or "plancha" method, which is discussed in detail; (4) the evaluation of results; (5) the method of evaluating results employed at the Padre Bento leprosarium; (6) the general results obtained there; (7) the factors which influence the results, predominant and accessory; (8) specific resistance, in which connection the results with the "Mitsuda-Hayashi" reaction are detailed; and, finally, (9) the accessory factors—sex in relation to the incidence of the disease and the results of treatment, age, duration of the disease, the intensity, time and regularity of treatment, and lepra reaction.

The stress which is placed on the intradermal method of applying the chaulmoogra drugs is significant; the disadvantages of the multiple punctures

required, and of the time and skill needed to make them, are outweighed by the absence of general reaction and the rapidity with which lesions improve, to the general benefit of the patient. The author's appreciation of the complexity of factors which make it difficult to evaluate accurately progress under treatment might with profit be adopted universally; emphasis is laid on the bacteriological as well as the clinical examination in that connection. Chaulmoogra treatment as used at Padre Bento has brought about improvement in a majority of the patients. The necessity of treating special lesions, such as those of the nose, is pointed out. The results that were obtained with the Mitsuda test are of interest [see Rotberg, *THE JOURNAL* 6 (1938) 462; also the next issue], as is the grouping of cases in which the results are recorded. The discussion of the influence of the "accessory factors" on treatment seems especially valuable, and the present writer regrets, as doubtless many other leprosy workers will, the barrier to its full understanding that the language interposes. —H. W. WADE

SCHUJMAN, SOLOMON. *La Prophylaxis Antileprosa en el Estado de São Paulo. Informe elevado al Patronato de Leprosos de Buenos Aires. Libreria y Editorial Ruiz, Rosario, 1937, 206 pp., 111 illustrations.*

In the latter part of 1936 the author spent five months in Brazil, sent by the Patronato de Leprosos of Buenos Aires in order, he says, that he might study the antileprosy organization in a country where the customs, climate and problem were similar to those of their own country. Though he recognizes the importance of the work that is being done in other parts of Brazil, and especially the part played by the Centro Internacional in Rio de Janeiro, the author was so impressed—as any visitor must be—with the organization and activities in the State of São Paulo that this publication, which is his report to the Patronato, is devoted entirely to the work in that state. He deals with the subject thoroughly, taking up in turn the development of the work, the present general organization, the five leproseries, the two preventoria, the dispensaries, and the units of the central body including the library and the Conde Lara laboratories. Schujman has done something that was needed, for there is no other publication that gives an adequate idea of the remarkable antileprosy organization of São Paulo, on the whole second to none in the world and in some respects unequalled. The astonishment that was felt by many who saw the film of the São Paulo institutions that was shown at Cairo in March last year, will undoubtedly be shared to some extent by those to whom this book is not closed by the language, and to everyone the abundant illustrations will be impressive. —H. W. WADE