

BOOK REVIEWS

ROGERS, SIR LEONARD AND MUIR, ERNEST. Leprosy. 2nd Edition, 1940, ✓
Wright & Sons, Ltd., Bristol.

The first edition of this well-known work appeared fifteen years ago. Its preparation was, perhaps, somewhat handicapped by the fact that the authors were widely separated—Sir Leonard Rogers, having retired from service in India, was resident in England, while Dr. Muir was engaged in active leprosy work in India. This new edition has the advantage that both authors now live in England and have been able to collaborate more intimately than before.

The book, which embodies all the latest developments in knowledge of leprosy in matters of diagnosis, treatment, nomenclature, prophylaxis and control, is divided into six sections. Section 1 deals with the history and distribution of leprosy, in chapters that contain much new and interesting historical matter relating to the first appearance and the later spread of the disease in various parts of the world, and a detailed account of its present distribution with special reference to British territories and dependencies.

Section 2 deals with epidemiology and communicability. The conditions that favor invasion by leprosy and those that are unfavorable to its inception and spread are discussed, as are the different theories of its causation, evidence being given of its communicability. A study is made of conditions that influence the degree of its contagiousness, special emphasis being laid on the special susceptibility of children.

In Section 3, which deals with prophylaxis, the older methods of segregation in different ages and different parts of the world are contrasted with the more intelligent principles and practice of present-day prophylactic methods.

Section 4 is devoted to a description of the bacillus of leprosy and its distribution in the body, and such subjects are dealt with as bacillemia, the escape of bacilli from the skin, the nose, and in various secretions. The various forms of immunity, natural, general, and acquired, are described. Rat leprosy is also discussed here.

Section 5, the clinical part, comprises chapters on primary infection, the incubation period, the onset of the disease, and the type classification of cases. Descriptions of the clinical signs are given, and of the pathology of the lesions considered both generally and by regions. The relation of the incidence of the disease to sex, age, race, climate and social conditions is discussed. Emphasis is laid upon the importance of early diagnosis, by the use of the most thorough methods of bacteriological examination as well as the intelligent employment of every kind of clinical test. The importance of accurate prognosis is stressed, much of the success of treatment depend-

ing on the hope and assurance that it may be possible to inspire in the patient.

Section 6 deals with treatment, from the older methods to the latest ones of every kind. Reference is made to the many mineral and vegetable substances used in special treatment, methods of local treatment by caustics and surgical measures are described, and also the use of vaccines, sera, protein shock, snake venom, etc. Chaulmoogra oil, however, is the remedy most generally relied upon and is recommended. Much importance is attached to general treatment, which is discussed under the headings of climate, nutrition, exercise, and occupational psycho-therapeutics, these measures being regarded as essential for the success of any special treatment.

Except for a few charts in the text, the illustrations are all given at the end of the book, just before the index. The plates are all excellent reproductions of photographs of typical leprosy lesions and cases taken in the field.

As a scientific treatise on leprosy this book must hold first place for authoritative teaching. It will, besides, appeal to the great numbers of the general public who are interested in leprosy work, as a book beautifully printed and easy to read. If copies of it were placed in school, college and public libraries, the subject of leprosy would soon become much more generally known than it is at present. The authors and the publishers are to be congratulated on its production.

—J. W. LINDSAY

MAURANO, FLAVIO. *Historia da Lepra em S. Paulo. 3ª Monographia dos Arquivos do Sanatorio Padre Bento.* Issued by the Service of Leprosy Prophylaxis of the State of São Paulo, Brazil, 1939, 2 vols, xv and 270, and viii and 281 pp., with 127 figs. and 5 text-figs.

It is impracticable to attempt here an actual review of this very thorough and profusely documented study of the history of leprosy in São Paulo. Its scope is indicated by the titles of the chapters: (1) the origin of leprosy in Brazil (which the author ascribes almost exclusively to the Portuguese, according imported slaves a very slight part); (2) the dissemination of leprosy in the state of São Paulo (the disease is referred to in documents dating back almost two centuries); (3) the public services and leprosy (in the colonial and imperial periods and in the first three decades of the republic); (4) the habits of lepers; (5) the knowledge of physicians and beliefs of the people with respect to leprosy; (6 and 7) hospitals for lepers in the capital and at Itú; (8) private cooperation in the care of lepers; (9) early phase of the present campaign against leprosy; (10) the present campaign against leprosy in the state. The second volume ends with a summary, each chapter being dealt with separately. This summary, which is in three foreign languages (English, French and German) was presented at the 11th International Congress of the History of Medicine, held in Zagreb in September, 1938.

With these volumes is an insert which states that it is desired to create an institution of medical history in São Paulo, and invites contributions of studies on that subject—folk-lore, history in general and other matters, particularly with reference to skin diseases and leprosy. The author's address is given as 94 Ave. Tiradentes, São Paulo.

—H. W. W.

MUKHERJEE, D. N. *Short Notes on Leprosy.* Raipur, 1938, published by the Author, pp. 25, price As. 2 per copy.

In the limited space of this little booklet the author [leprosy specialist to the government of Central Provinces and Berar] has tried to deal with all the different aspects of leprosy—classification, clinical manifestations, diagnosis, differential diagnosis, laboratory tests and control of leprosy. The description has naturally to be very brief. The type and paper used is quite good but there are several printing mistakes. The author makes no mention of the presence of thickened nerves as one of the cardinal points in diagnosis of the disease. The booklet is quite cheap at two annas and will be useful to health visitors employed in anti-leprosy work.—[From *Indian Med. Gaz.* 74 (1939) 503.]