

BOOK REVIEWS

Browne, S. G., Davey, F. and Thomson, W. A. R. *Heralds of Health. The Saga of Christian Medical Initiatives.* London: Christian Medical Fellowship, 1985, 382 pp., softbound, £4.95 (includes indices of names, places, and subjects).

This book is a unique record of the many contributions made by Christians to advances in health care in the Third World.

The 20 chapters cover a wide range of topics, including maternal and child services, tropical medicine and surgery, epidemic and infectious diseases, leprosy and tuberculosis, sanitation, community health programs, rehabilitation of the handicapped, nursing and medical education, and the special role of women doctors.

The book opens with an historical overview of the motivation and development of medical missions, and ends with a survey of the present position and future prospects, and an account of national co-workers.

All of the authors have had long experience of medical missionary work in Africa or Asia. Stanley G. Browne, who finished editing the book after the death of his co-editors, passed away on 29 January 1986.

This fully indexed book is of major importance to all concerned with the delivery of health care worldwide. As Lord Porritt writes in the Foreword, it is an epic story of selfless devoted service to humanity, makes compulsive reading, and is of interest to a far wider public than those involved and interested in medical missionary work.

Here are stories of great courage and devotion to the task of healing and bringing relief to those in need, all inspired by the Great Physician, Jesus Christ.—(From the back cover)

Dharmendra, ed. *Leprosy. Vol. 2.* Bombay: Samant and Company, 1985, 1565 pp. + index, hard cover, Rs.525, US\$95, £80.

The long-awaited Volume 2 of the authoritative textbook on leprosy edited by Dharmendra has now appeared. The 28 contributors to this book are all eminent international authorities in leprosy and together with Dharmendra have created a monumental, definitive work.

Volume 2 is divided into six major sections (continuing from Volume 1) numbered VIII–XIII, dealing with microbiology, pathology, experimental transmission of *Mycobacterium leprae* to animals, immunopathology, epidemiology, and control. The section on microbiology is highlighted by superb reviews of *M. leprae* and other mycobacteria by Dharmendra and Kirchheimer, the ultrastructure by Imaeda, and bacteremia by Desikan. The pathology section contains a series of beautifully illustrated chapters by Job and Dharmendra dealing with histopathology of skin lesions, reacting skin lesions, and visceral and peripheral nerve lesions in leprosy. Vascular and bone and joint changes are described by Carayon and Dharmendra, and Balakrishnan outlines biochemical changes in the disease.

The section on experimental transmission begins with a series of three chapters by Shepard dealing with the mouse foot pad model, immunosuppressed animals and armadillos, and concludes with an overview of animal models for research by Kirchheimer. The immunology section contains chapters on the immunology and serology of the disease by Vaidya and Dharmendra, macrophages by Birdi and Antia, immunity by Talwar and Fotedar, and reaction mechanisms by Dharmendra and Desikan. This section ends with a definitive chapter on the lepromin test by Dharmendra (163 references).

The epidemiology section begins with a chapter on general considerations by Dharmendra, followed by chapters on the source of infection by Dharmendra and Guinto, transmission factors by Noordeen, genetic factors in host susceptibility by Chakravarti and Vogel, and non-genetic factors by Dharmendra. The section continues with chapters on the descriptive epidemiology of leprosy by Noordeen, leprosy surveys by Noordeen and Dharmendra, and concludes with a chapter on immuno-epidemiologic surveys to detect subclinical infection by Dharmendra.

The final section of Volume 2 deals with leprosy control and consists of 25 chapters divided into three subsections. The first

subsection deals with methods to prevent the spread of the disease and begins with a total concept of leprosy control by Dharmendra, followed by chapters by Dharmendra on general principles, case finding, mass-scale chemotherapy, and preventing contact with infective cases. Dharmendra and Noordeen then discuss chemoprophylaxis, Bechelli reviews BCG vaccination, and Talwar and Mustafa conclude the subsection with a chapter on the immunoprophylaxis of leprosy.

The second subsection deals with socioeconomic aspects and begins with chapters on these problems and methods to solve them by Jagadisan and Dharmendra. Dharmendra then discusses the protection of healthy children against leprosy and with Samy reviews the rehabilitation of leprosy patients. The subsection ends with a chapter on the importance of urban leprosy by Dharmendra and Ganapati.

The final subsection begins with chapters on health education of healthy persons and leprosy patients and training of health care personnel by Dharmendra. Gokhale reviews the role of social welfare in rehabilitation and Dharmendra discusses vocational training. Chapters follow on functional testing for vocational training and rehabilitation by Mehta and chapters on diver-

sional therapy, the role of hospitals, raising socioeconomic and sanitary conditions of the general population, the limited role of legal measures in control, and the integrations of leprosy control with general health services by Dharmendra. The volume concludes with a very useful overview of the role of research in leprosy control by Chatterjee and Dharmendra.

Overall, Volume 2, like Volume 1, is a most impressive collection and presentation of a vast amount of experience, knowledge, and wisdom about leprosy. As is to some degree inevitable in an undertaking of this magnitude in a field with active research underway, there are areas in which the information given should already be updated. On the other hand, there are probably a number of researchers currently contemplating or perhaps even already undertaking work who would find that earlier work so elegantly summarized in this book has already yielded the knowledge they seek. Dr. Dharmendra and his contributors are to be congratulated on having produced a definitive textbook on the disease, and we look forward to its completion with the publication of Volume 3, dealing with special techniques and other important matters, which is expected shortly.—RCH