

## FROM OUR BOOKSHELF

**PRACTICE OF DERMATOLOGY:** By Pran Nath Behl, Published by Allied Publishers Private, Ltd., 15, Graham Road, Ballard Estate, Bombay 1; Pp. 505; Figs. 154; Price : Rs. 35.00.

We welcome a book on dermatology by a colleague in India. It is not our intention to do any hair-splitting on too many superlatives used both about the author and the book. Perhaps it is a sign of overenthusiasm and youth.

It is to the credit of Dr. Behl that he has given enough space to the discussion of the basic subjects like anatomy, physiology, pathology etc. The chapter on 'Aids to a Healthy Skin' forms a distinct feature of this section. One is impressed by the fact that these subjects are tackled by people competent to do so. The second part deals with diseases of the skin classified mostly according to etiology. As regards illustrations, they are dumped disease wise at the rear of the book—a notable departure from the usual practice in such books. It is now more or less a consensus that the pictures should be included in the body of the text as a ready visual aid. However, the figures on appliances for patients of leprosy (and not 'lepers') forms a novel feature of the illustrations. Dr. Behl has done well to describe the management in detail wherever indicated.

Since this is the first attempt of its kind, mistakes and errors of all kinds are likely to creep in, specially when one is in a hurry to catch up with a particular occasion. The format is good but for the quality of the paper and size of the book. We are sure Dr. Behl with the cooperation of his publishers will remove the defects in the second edition.

As is claimed the book will serve as a practical hand-book to medical students and general practitioners.—T. K. M.

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