

## FROM OUR BOOK-SHELF

DIFFERENTIAL DIAGNOSIS OF YAWS by : C. J. Hackett and L. J. A. Loewenthal, Geneva, 1960 (World Health Organization: Monograph Series, No. 45), 88 pages. Price: 17/6, \$3.25 or Sw. fr. 10. — French and Spanish editions in preparation.

As increasing progress is made in yaws eradication in many countries, it becomes increasingly important to be able to differentiate as clearly as possible between skin and other lesions not caused by yaws and those yaws lesions which they may closely resemble. At all stages of a mass campaign for the eradication of yaws the clinical diagnosis should, of course, be as accurate as circumstances permit. However, in view of the limited time available at initial treatment surveys and of the simple training of necessity given to many of the field staff, a certain proportion of diagnoses — probably about 10 per cent. — may be expected to be erroneous. Such errors are all the easier to make as the skin has a limited number of reaction patterns, so that similar lesions may result from different causes. In the later stages of an eradication campaign, the manifestations of yaws have largely disappeared as a result of mass treatment with penicillin. It is then that many lesions not due to yaws become prominent, and at this stage accuracy of diagnosis assumes particular importance.

The lesions of yaws were fully illustrated in C.J. Hackett's *An International Nomenclature of Yaws Lesions*, published by the World Health Organization in 1957. The present monograph, written by the same author in collaboration with Dr. L.J.A. Loewenthal, is intended as a companion volume to that earlier publication, and was prepared in response to requests for an illustrated handbook which would assist field workers in making accurate diagnosis.

Only illustrations of lesions likely to cause confusion with yaws have been selected, and special attention has been paid to lesions of the palms and soles as these seem to be the least understood and the most troublesome. To facilitate comparison between similar lesions of dissimilar etiology, there are numerous cross-references from the 52 full-page photographs in this monograph to those in *An International Nomenclature of Yaws Lesions*.

In an annex the authors discuss two types of planter lesion — originally described as keratoma plantare sulcatum and keratoderma punctata — which have been referred to in the literature of tropical medicine by a variety of names and about the cause of which considerable confusion has arisen.

YEAR BOOK OF DERMATOLOGY 1959-60 SERIES : By Rudolf L. Baer, M.D., and Victor H. Witten, M.D., Published by : Year Book Publishers, Inc., 200 E. Illinois St., Chicago 11. Pp. 479; Price : \$9.00.

Of the 479 pages of this issue of a series of Year Books, valued for their completeness, 50 are given to Eczematous Dermatitis (including allergic), Industrial Dermatitis, Atopic Dermatitis and urticaria. There is a leading article on Acne Vulgaris, which covers up significant advances in therapeutic approaches. The remainder of the book deals