

BOOK REVIEWS

Contact dermatitis in India, Second ed, Pasricha JS : Department of Science and Technology Publication New Delhi, 1988; pp 155.

The book is a 155-page monogram based on the findings of a project study carried out by a team of dermatologists in India with the author as the co-ordinator of the project.

The monogram is divided into 8 chapters. The opening chapter entitled 'General features' covers succinctly the important aspects of pathogenesis and clinical features of contact dermatitis and explains in some detail the various diagnostic testing procedures. In the subsequent chapters of the book, contactants causing dermatitis are grouped in a meaningful manner under plants, vegetables and fruits, wearing apparel and jewellery, cosmetics, drugs and industrial agents. In the introductory sections of each chapter, specific clinical characteristics of each group are described. The results of the survey in various parts of the country is presented but the exhaustiveness of this leads to a certain monotony to these sections which perhaps could have been avoided. The author's summarising comments after the data presentation is however useful. Tables on patch test reactions with a variety of substances discussed in each chapter will serve as a ready reference.

The data on contact dermatitis from industrial agents were collected through "on the spot visits" to a variety of industrial plants and workshops by the author's team. This gives a uniqueness to the presentation and is a very informative section of the monogram. There is a concluding chapter on management and an Appendix given as guideline for those who wish to undertake patch tests on their patients.

The author should be commended on a very fine 'get up' with exhaustive data on the subject. The photographs in colour are of good quality. This book can be unqualifiedly recommended for post-graduate students in dermatology, specialists and also for general practitioners who choose to treat patients with skin diseases. It can be strongly recommended as a useful addition to a dermatologist's library and centres where PG dermatological training is being conducted or envisaged.

Rachel Mathai,
Vellore

Leprosy (For medical practitioners and para-medical workers), Third edition, Thangaraj RH and Yawalkar SJ : Ciba-Geigy Limited, Basel 1988; pp 108.

"Small is beautiful". This is what this small, handy, recently released 3rd edition of the monograph on leprosy, written by the two eminent workers, reconfirms. The contents of the book include 15 chapters viz, (1) introduction, (2) Historical background, (3) Prevalence, (4) Bacteriology, (5) Epidemiology, (6) Evolution of leprosy lesions, (7) Clinical features, (8) Eye involvement, (9) Differential diagnosis, (10) Diagnosis, (11) Treatment, (12) Reactions in leprosy, (13) Deformities and their management, (14) Prevention and control of leprosy, and (15) Rehabilitation in leprosy. The chapter on eye involvement is the new addition to this edition. The text in other chapters has also been modified at some places to make it more accurate, clear, interesting to read, concise and yet highly informative. Thus, it continues the excellence of

the previous edition from every standpoint. Numerous coloured and nicely reproduced photographs and small but self-explanatory tables further assist in understanding the subject. Some new coloured photographs have also been added to this edition. The methodology of taking slit smears and their staining and interpretations are well illustrated with the help of diagrams. Separate but useful chapters are devoted to deformities and their management and rehabilitation in leprosy. The material is up-to-date with references till 1988 which are given in the order of their appearance in the text. The monograph concludes with an account of the milestones in leprosy followed by a brief introduction about the authors.

The book is intended for the medical practitioners and paramedical workers engaged in the management of leprosy and this goal is accomplished in a straight-forward and easily understandable manner. It should also prove valuable to the medical students, residents and all those engaged in the control and eradication of leprosy from our country and elsewhere. In essence, it is an excellent guide to leprosy.

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