

FROM OUR BOOKSHELF

HINTS ON DIAGNOSIS AND TREATMENT OF LEPROSY: By Dr. R. V. Wardekar, M. D., Director, Gandhi Memorial Leprosy, Wardha, Pp. 34, Figs. 15; Price : Re. 1.00 (without postage); 1.50 (with postage).

This is a small book of great value to all those who would care to read it; because it is written by a man who has dedicated his whole life in the crusade against this much maligned malady of leprosy. Dr. Wardekar is a pathologist by training. He let go all the prospects of a lucrative career in a city like Bombay and instead threw himself heart and soul, in the campaign against leprosy, out of sheer humane and fellow feeling for the millions of sufferers of this so called fell disease.

His meticulous study of the problem is revealed in the book. It is primarily intended for general medical practitioners who should be better remember facts about leprosy and forget the fictions. He has laboured hard to remove all the prejudices. He has convincingly made a case for treatment of leprosy in dispensaries and in outpatient departments. In short patients suffering from leprosy should be handled and managed in the same way as others suffering from any other infection. He appeals to medical as well as nonmedical people to adopt a humane and sympathetic attitude towards sufferers of the disease. In a way this will help to control the disease.

Though the book is primarily intended for general practitioners, it is a must for all those who want to understand the evolution of the disease and its classification based thereon. It is thus instructive to undergraduates and postgraduates as well. The book is strongly recommended.—T. K. M.

Indian Journal of Dermatology & Venereology

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MAHARASHTRA MEDICAL JOURNAL, Poona 2. Annual Special Number on "Leprosy", Part I and II, Vol. XIII, April and May 1966, Rs. 2 each.

It is to the credit of the Maharashtra Medical Journal to bring out these special numbers on "Leprosy" on the birth anniversary of the periodical. The two special numbers were monitored and edited by our friend and Poona's leading dermatologist Dr. A. Y. Lonkar. We congratulate him on his success. Leprosy like Tuberculosis is always a topical subject. These special numbers will once again focus the attention of the medical fraternity (and it is necessary also) on this social scourge. They derive their importance and utility from the fact they have been largely contributed by the Bombay and Chingleput (Madras) group of workers on leprosy. They have tried their best to discuss the subject threadbare and highlighted the importance of early diagnosis, (which is not so difficult after all) prevention of later deformities and disfigurement, curability and rehabilitation.

In the last analysis it is these deformities and disfigurement that have caused prejudice and stigma against this disease. The special numbers will have served their purpose if they succeed at least in removing prejudice from medical practitioners (and there is no denying the fact that a large proportion do have prejudice!). We recommend these issues not only to medical practitioners but also to students, specialists and last but not the least to public health officers and also social workers.—T. K. M.

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