

## BOOK REVIEWS

**Handbook of Dermatology, Leprology and Sexually Transmitted Diseases, by K. Pavithran, 'V' Publishers, Kottayam, First Edition, 1985, pp 206, Price Rs. 25.00.**

At a time when medical literature is being enriched with fruits of tremendous scientific advancement, it is a matter of relief to see a small yet informative and concise text on diseases of skin, STD and leprosy. A need for lucid, essential book with latest information on diseases of these disciplines was being felt for quite some time by undergraduate and nursing students. This book fills the void.

The book deals with almost all common skin and sexually transmitted diseases encompassing essential knowledge of etiology, symptomatology and treatment. The author has taken care to include the latest information on leprosy in the form of a supplement.

Though not meant as a text book for post-graduates, this book will be found useful not only by medical students, nurses, general practitioners and specialists other than dermatologists, but also by the diploma students,

Gp Capt R K Dutta,  
Pune

**Handbook of Leprosy, by W. H. Jopling, William Heinemann Medical Books Ltd, London, Third edition, 1984, pp 145, Price Rs. 110.00 approximately.**

The third edition of the "Handbook of Leprosy" by WH Jopling could not have arrived in India at a more opportune moment than today, when tremendous enthusiasm about the subject of leprosy is evident in the medical campuses. The stature and credibility of the author and the popularity of previous editions of this book in fact have made us eagerly wait

for this publication to hit the bookstalls in this country.

Elaborate review on this valuable book is not called for, as most of the readers are well aware of how immeasurable number of students and leprosy workers have been benefited by the earlier editions. Suffice it to say that the author has remarkably achieved the task of adding the wealth of recent advances in the subject within the space offered by a precious little 123 pages.

Besides the usual chapters on clinical and diagnostic aspects of leprosy written in a masterly fashion, the essence of current immunological research in leprosy has been revised and condensed admirably into a small chapter in a manner understandable to the average student. The author's original concepts about type 1 and type 2 lepra reactions as well as the effect of pregnancy on mother with leprosy are described exceptionally well; and there is a newly added, special chapter on differential diagnosis though it is unreasonable to expect illustrations on this subject in a booklet of this type.

While these features are quite welcome in a handbook of this type, one wishes that the treatment regimens accepted all over the world by international authorities like WHO alone had been mentioned in the chapter dealing with multi-drug therapy, without a reference to drugs like acedapsone etc. as one realises that such products are not available in several countries. Further, many may not agree to the principle of treating multi-bacillary cases with two drugs any more, as the reasoning behind the need for triple drug therapy for multi-bacillary cases is very rational and is universally accepted in view of the wide prevalence of dapsone resistance.

It is refreshing to see that the author has dedicated the book to the humble leprosy workers

who will not be able to count on recognition or material reward and who are engaged "in the onerous and time-consuming task of ensuring that patients are taking treatment regularly and are not failing their clinic attendance". This clearly reveals the sincerity of the author in attempting to reach the goal of eradication of leprosy through this noble contribution and not

merely bringing out a handbook for the clinicians. The book should prove most useful to anyone who wants to have a crystal clear understanding of leprosy and its management before attempting to conquer the disease using various weapons at our disposal at present.

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Bombay

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