

Book review

Fortschritte der praktischen Dermatologie und Venereologie, Vol. 6, Edited by O. BRAUN-FALCO and H. J. BANDMANN. 1970. Pp. 337, 38 figs. Springer-Verlag, Berlin, Heidelberg, and New York (US \$16.50)

Since 1951, six postgraduate courses in dermatology and venereology have been held at the University of Munich. Eminent dermatologists from other university centres in Germany were invited to participate, and the lectures were later published under the title "Advances in Practical Dermatology and Venereology". This, the sixth volume, contains 39 lectures given in 1969, including three devoted to venereal diseases.

Professor Heite (*Freiburg*), who deals with the epidemiological and legal aspects of venereal diseases in Germany, urges the need for altering the existing laws regarding the control of venereal diseases to take into consideration *inter alia* the control of non-gonococcal urethritis and trichomoniasis.

Professor Röckl (*Würzburg*), in "Proposals for the Standardization on Treatment of Gonorrhoea and Syphilis", stresses the importance of obtaining high initial serum levels of penicillin and reports that a single injection of 3.4 or 3.5 mega units benzylpenicillin combined with procaine penicillin to add up to 4 mega units was effective in all of 100 cases of gonorrhoea in both sexes (including a woman who had previously failed to respond to six daily doses of 1 mega unit procaine penicillin). The treatment he recommends for syphilis (fifteen daily injections of 1 mega unit procaine penicillin in the seronegative primary stage, two such courses in the seropositive primary stage, three in the secondary stage, and three to five in the late stages) is likely to be regarded as excessive by many venereologists in the United Kingdom.

Professor Herxberg (*Bremen*) writes on "The Diagnosis and Management of Lymphopathia Venerea".

The following contributions are amongst those which will also attract the attention of the venereologist:

"Clinical Manifestations, Diagnosis, and Management of Penicillin Allergy" by Professor Götz (*Essen*);

"Interesting Cases in Dermatological Practice" by Professor Greither (*Düsseldorf*) includes a case of secondary syphilis misdiagnosed as mycosis fungoides on the strength of a biopsy report and treated with corticosteroids for 3 months, until treponemes were detected in one of the lesions at a follow-up examination.

Professor Steingleder (*Cologne*), writing on epizoonoses, reminds us that the incubation period of scabies is more or less the same as that of syphilis and that there were instances when not only the mite but also treponemes were found in the scabietic lesion and other instances when secondary syphilitic eruption was masked by post-scabietic eczema.

One would wish that Professor Hornstein (*Erlangen*), in his very instructive and otherwise comprehensive contribution on "Pustular Lesions on the Palms and Soles, their Differential Diagnosis and Treatment", had included plantar lesions in Reiter's disease which frequently undergo pustulation and had also mentioned palmar and plantar syphilides, although they are never pustular in adults.

This is a very informative book and the level of individual contributions is high. Ample references, mostly in German, follow each paper and there is an adequate index. The book would make an attractive addition to any library which includes foreign publications. For a paperback edition the price is rather high.

L. Z. Oller

Correction

In the article by B. A. Smithurst (December, 1970), the total number of patients studied was 868, not 768 as stated, and the text should be corrected as follows:

Brit. J. vener. Dis. (1970), vol. 45

p. 398, title

p. 399, col. 2, l. 20, and Table Title

p. 400, col. 1, l. 36, and col. 2, ll. 24, 28

p. 398, col. 1, l. 17

} for 768 read 868

} for 368 read 268