

## Recensions -- Book Reviews

*Bone Changes in Leprosy.* V. MØLLER-CHRISTENSEN. Munksgaard, 1961, 51 pp., 16 plates. \$6.50.

This is a slim handsome volume, well printed and extremely well illustrated. The author has excavated 150 skeletons from a leper cemetery in Aaderup in Denmark which, when added to other excavations, increased his sample to 358 specimens. Of these, 123 are complete skeletons. He has introduced a new concept termed the facies leprosa which he defines as follows: "It is a skull with atrophy of the nasal spine — either as an isolated symptom or combined with central atrophy of the maxillary process".

The author also noted a number of "strange pathological changes," grooves and periosteal coatings in the tibia and fibula. There is also a supplement dealing with a skeleton of a 25 year old leper with osseous anchyl-osis of the left knee joint.

L. OSCHINSKY  
*National Museum of Canada*

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*The Evolution of Man.* G.W. LASKER. Holt Rinehart and Winston, 1961, 239 pp. \$3.50.

This is a readable convenient-sized textbook in physical anthropology for those who wish a shorter overview of physical anthropology than is found in the compendia of Comas and Montague. The plates and figures are extremely well reproduced and the style of writing clear and concise.

The author goes into detail in Chapters 3, 13, 14, 15, and 16 on genetic theory, blood group genetics, and population genetics but disappoints the reader in his discussion of the significance of these factors in physical anthropology. He writes about the effect of natural selection on monogenetic serological factors and yet in his treatment of races gives them equal taxonomic weight with polygenetic morphological characters which are more stable in racial phylogeny. This theoretical eclecticism or ambivalence can confuse the beginner but is unavoidable in present day physical anthropology which might be described as most naive in matters of taxonomy.

L. OSCHINSKY  
*National Museum of Canada*

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