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Autore	Robson Charmaine
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Nota di contenuto	Chapter 1: Introduction -- Chapter 2: Foundations -- Chapter 3: The Making of Interwar Leprosy Policy for Indigenous Australians -- Chapter 4: The Church, the State and Missionary Women -- Chapter 5: The Leprosaria and Nursing Practice 1937 - c.1950 -- Chapter 6: Social, Cultural and Spiritual Life in the Leprosarium -- Chapter 7: Births, Betrothals and 'Bad' Behaviour -- Chapter 8: Missionary Men and the Indigenous Leprosaria 1940 - c.1955 -- Chapter 9: Leprosy Therapy and Patient Welfare in the Assimilation Era -- Chapter 10: Confinement and Control in the Middle to Late Twentieth Century --

Epilogue.

Sommario/riassunto

“In this clear-sighted, sensitive and deeply researched book, Charmaine Robson provides a compelling account of Indigenous leprosy sufferers and the women missionaries who cared for them in mid-twentieth century Australia. She sheds new light on the politics of public health, the spirituality of care and the different ways in which Indigenous patients made their own lives in sites of incarceration and suffering.” — Anne O'Brien, Professor of History, University of New South Wales, Australia

This book focuses on twentieth-century Australian leprosaria to explore the lives of Indigenous patients and the Catholic women missionaries who nursed them. Distinguished from previous historical studies of leprosy, the book examines the care and management of the incarcerated, enabling a broader understanding of their experience. From the 1930s until the 1980s, respective governments appointed the trained sisters to four leprosaria across remote northern Australia, where almost two thousand people had been removed from their homes and detained under law for years - sometimes decades. The book traces the sisters' holistic nursing from early efforts of amelioration and palliation to their part in the successful treatment of leprosy after World War II. It reveals the ways the sisters stepped out of their assigned roles and attempted to shape the institutions as places of health and hygiene, of European culture and education, and of Christianity. Making use of accounts from patients, doctors, bureaucrats, missionary men, and Indigenous families and communities, the book offers fresh perspectives on two important strands of history. First, its attention to the day-to-day work of the Australian sisters helps to demystify leprosy healthcare by female missionaries, generally. Secondly, with the sisters specifically caring for Indigenous people, this book exposes the institutional practices and goals specific to race relations of both the Australian government and Catholic missionaries. An important and timely read for anyone interested in Indigenous history, medical history and the connections between race, religion and healthcare, this book contextualizes the twentieth-century leprosy epidemic within Australia's broader colonial history. Charmaine Robson lectures in history at the University of New South Wales, Sydney, Australia, and previously worked as a pharmacist. She has been an Executive member and Councillor of the Australian and New Zealand Society of the History of Medicine (ANZSHM) since 2015, and President of the New South Wales Branch since 2020.