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61(213) Tropenmedizin — Médecine tropicale — Tropical Medicine

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Rezensionen — Analyses — Reviews.

Rodger, F. C.: Blindness in West Africa. 262 pp. ill. maps. — London: H. K. Lewis & Co. Ltd. Published for the Royal Society for the Blind. 1959. £ 3/10/-.

Der ausgezeichnete Bericht, welchen eine ophthalmologische Equipe im Auftrag der «Royal Commonwealth Society for the Blind» über ihre Untersuchungen in West-Afrika erstattet, ist in geographischer und sozialmedizinischer Hinsicht von großem Interesse. Er wendet sich vorwiegend an den Mediziner, bietet aber auch dem Ophthalmologen recht viel.

Die im nördlichen Ghana, in Kamerun und Nigeria zur Erblindung führenden Augenerkrankungen und ihre Differentialdiagnose werden recht eingehend geschildert. Die Häufigkeit der Erblindung in diesen Staaten ist noch erschreckend hoch. Sie beträgt für Nordghana 3%, für Nordnigeria 0,8% und für Kamerun 1%. Das sind Zahlen, die mehr als 10mal größer als in europäischen Ländern sind. Unter den Erblindungsursachen stehen die Onchocerciasis (Filariose) und das Trachom mit Abstand an vorderster Stelle. Daneben ist es beeindruckend, daß eine an sich reversible Erblindungsursache, wie die senile Cataract, noch so häufig vertreten ist.

Glaucom spielt als Erblindungsursache, im Gegensatz zu unseren Breiten, eine völlig untergeordnete Rolle.

Den Ophthalmologen wird die ausführliche und gut illustrierte monographische Darstellung der Filariose des Auges besonders interessieren.

Beeindruckend ist auch die Häufigkeit der blinden Kinder in den besuchten Gebieten Afrikas. In Nordghana dürften es 3000, in Nordnigeria 18 000 und in Kamerun etwa 500 sein.

Aber auch der medizinische Laie findet Wissenswertes im statistischen Teil, wo die geographisch bedingten Faktoren der zur Erblindung führenden Krankheiten zusammengestellt sind. Um die Zufälligkeit der Stichproben zu sichern, wurden die zu besuchenden Regionen willkürlich auf der Landkarte und ohne Rücksicht auf verkehrstechnische Schwierigkeiten ausgewählt. Besonderer Wert wurde auch auf die Erfassung der Kinder gelegt, obwohl viel Mühe und Zeit aufgewendet werden mußte, um ihr Vertrauen zu gewinnen. Ein eigenes Kapitel ist ihnen gewidmet.

Übersichtliche graphische Darstellungen erleichtern die Orientierung in den statistischen Angaben.

Für die saubere und gründliche Ausführung des Auftrages der «Royal Commonwealth Society for the Blind» empfindet der Leser große Achtung und freut sich über den leicht verständlichen und anschaulichen Stil des Berichtes.

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