

Zeitschrift: Acta Tropica
Herausgeber: Schweizerisches Tropeninstitut (Basel)
Band: 35 (1978)
Heft: 4

Buchbesprechung: Rezensionen = Analyses = Reviews

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Rezensionen – Analyses – Reviews

Pathology of Tropical and Extraordinary Diseases. Edited by Chapman H. Binford, M. D. and Daniel H. Connor, M. D. 694 pages, 44 authors, 1623 black and white illustrations and 276 color illustrations on 42 plates. Published by the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology, Washington, D.C. 1976. Vol. I. \$ 15.00, Vol. II. \$ 20.00. Submitted for review October 1978.

During World War II, the Korean and Vietnam Wars, knowledge and experience about tropical and parasitic diseases was accumulated within the United States. Since Colonel J. E. Ash and Dr. S. Spitz published their “Pathology of Tropical Diseases” in 1945, the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology has become a centre of relevant knowledge and documentation, as is shown once again in this new publication.

There are two volumes, the first dealing with viral, bacterial and protozoal diseases, comprising 338 pages, the second with helminthic, fungal, ectoparasitic, nutritional and neoplastic diseases as well as with some ill classified conditions such as endomyocardial fibrosis, comprising 356 pages.

44 authors contribute 102 chapters. The text is very clearly written, comprehensible throughout, up to date, free from speculations and strictly factual. Some parts read like a novel. Close scrutinizing by the reviewer revealed no mistakes. There are 1900 very good illustrations, mainly black and white. There is an alphabetical subject index for each volume.

All chapters are structured similarly: introduction and definition, epidemiology and geographical distribution, biology of the infectious agent or of the parasite, clinical manifestations, pathology, diagnosis and treatment. The main concern is with pathology, in particular histopathology. For each disease a typical histological pattern is described, followed by its individual variation, and its evolution in time. The main organs involved and the ones possibly affected are mentioned. There is a very good correlation between pathological findings and clinical manifestations, particularly in the chapter on schistosomiasis. The book can be used, therefore, for the identification of adult parasites, for the identification of eggs, larvae and adult parasites in tissue, and for the study of tissue reactions to parasitic diseases. Clinical manifestations, diagnosis and treatment are only summarized. There is no space for differential diagnosis and paraclinical aspects of diseases such as endoscopy and laboratory investigations. However, there are many useful illustrations of clinical aspects, mainly concerning the skin. The description of rare conditions has not been excluded and there is a mine of interesting details for the specialist. To mention but a few: the necrotising, obliterative vasculitis in leprosy leading to diffuse involvement of the skin without elevated lesions; intra-abdominal masses of the ileocaecal region due to *Angiostrongylus costaricensis* which inhabits mesenteric capillaries; *Micronema deletrix* as a cause of human meningoencephalitis, and so on.

I hope that the statement in the foreword of both volumes that “this book provides information which will lead to better health worldwide” will come true. In any case this book can be warmly recommended to parasitologists, pathologists and all concerned with tropical medicine.

D. Stürchler, Basel