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Rezensionen – Analyses – Reviews

Onchocerciasis in Africa. Série de 24 diapositives éditée par la “Foundation for Teaching at Low Cost” (TALC), Institute of Child Health, 30 Guilford Street, London WC1N 1EH

Concentrée dans des zones rurales souvent très isolées, difficile à traiter en raison du manque de médicaments spécifiques, l'onchocercose est une parasitose importante qui a pourtant été longtemps sous-estimée en Santé Publique. Cette nouvelle série de diapositives nous permet, dans le cadre de ce numéro consacré aux filarioses, de souligner l'intérêt et la qualité exceptionnels du matériel d'enseignement produit par la Fondation TALC.

Les vingt-quatre diapositives, accompagnées d'un commentaire de 8 pages avec questions et réponses sur chaque diapositive, couvrent l'ensemble du sujet: 3 comme introduction pour montrer l'importance de la maladie; 5 sur la pathologie et le diagnostic; 3 sur le mode de transmission; 4 sur les lésions cutanées; 5 sur les lésions oculaires; 3 sur le traitement et la prévention; 2 sur le diagnostic différentiel avec la wuchereriase et la loase. Plusieurs diapositives juxtaposent deux ou trois images pour faciliter les comparaisons.

Les diapositives, fournies par différentes personnes ayant une longue expérience du terrain, sont d'une excellente qualité et surtout reproduites de façon irréprochable. Le texte édité en anglais par le Docteur F. King est juste et clair. Les questions font aborder aux étudiants les points essentiels du problème et leur permettent de participer activement à l'enseignement. Le dernier point, et non le moindre, est le prix de ces séries qui les rend abordable au budget souvent limité de toute personne soucieuse d'illustrer son enseignement, aussi bien en zone d'endémie que dans des institutions spécialisées.

A. Degrémont, Bâle

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

W. Peters, H. M. Gilles: A Colour Atlas of Tropical Medicine and Parasitology. 416 p., ill., tab. Wolfe Medical Publications Ltd., London 1977 (Wolfe Medical Atlases, vol. 17). £ 18.36 (ISBN 07234-0176-4).

The well known series of medical colour atlases has been recently completed by a new volume concerning tropical medicine and parasitology. The large field of tropical diseases is described in 763 photos and diagrams, most of them in colours. Besides the distribution maps, the agents, the vectors, the laboratory techniques and the main symptoms of the different diseases are demonstrated. Clear and short commentaries explain the instructive pictures.

Everybody interested in tropical medicine will find this book helpful as an illustrated commentary to the classical textbooks.

We are sure it will find a place not only in the bookshelves but also in the pockets of the tropical doctors.

E. Stahel, Basel