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J. D. SMYTH: THE PHYSIOLOGY OF TREMATODES. UNIVERSITY REVIEWS IN BIOLOGY. Oliver and Boyd. Edinburgh and London 1966. 266 pp., ill.

A comprehensive account has been given on the chemism of the egg-shell formation, on the morphology of the miracidia and their development in the intermediate host, with a description of development of the sporocysts, rediae and cercariae and their influence on the intermediate host, the snail.

In the chapters dealing with the biology of the cercariae and the development in the definitive host, attention has been given chiefly to the various types of unicellular glands in the cercarial body, to the influence of diverse factors on the liberation of the cercariae from the snails, on the processes of encystment and the formation of the cyst. Details are given on the excystment and the migration in the definitive host. Also the in vitro cultivation of Digenea has been fully considered.

Part II deals with the physiology of the host-parasite relationship with regard to vertebrate and invertebrate host tissue reactions to various developmental stages of trematodes. The last chapter deals with the physiology of the Aspidogastrea and Monogenea, of which very little is known up to date. The work summarizes all recent information available on Trematodes. It will be most useful for research workers in parasitology, zoology, veterinary science and tropical medicine, and suitable for students as a source of information on this very important group of parasitic worms, of which many species are of medical and economic importance.

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