

KOROVICKIY L. K., MELNIK M. N.,
GRIGORASHENKO A. E., STANKOV A. G.: TOKSOPLAZMOZ
(EPIDEMIOLOGIJA, KLINIKA, TERAPIJA I PROFILAKTIKA)
(TOXOPLASMOSIS, ITS EPIDEMIOLOGY, CLINIC, THERAPY
AND PROPHYLAXIS) *Second revised and completed edition. Publ. House*
"Zdorovja", Kiev 1966. 288 pp., 8 Tab., 15 ill. in the text. Price 95 kop.

The authors of this book and of a number of other articles on toxoplasmosis are: the Head of the infectious Department and the workers of the Institute of Epidemiology and Microbiology in Odessa. In addition to the Institute of Gamaley in Moscow and the Zoological Institute in Alma-Ata, the problems of toxoplasmosis are very intensively studied at the Institute in Odessa. Toxoplasmosis, as mentioned in the Introduction, is an infection with a variability of clinical manifestations, which are often typical for diseases with a different etiology. Therefore, in the past, toxoplasmosis was considered to occur only sporadically. However, large-scale investigations in the U.S.S.R. and many other countries revealed the danger and social importance of this infection in its congenital and acquired form.

The book is divided into 8 chapters. The Introduction starting with a historical review emphasizes the fact that the systematic research of toxoplasmosis in the U.S.S.R. was initiated by academician Pavlovsky in 1955. It further deals with the morphology and biology of *Toxoplasma* organisms and their resistance to the influences of the external environment. The chapter about the epizootology discusses the various ways of transmission and the occurrence of infection in the different animals: dogs, cats and other predators, domestic animals, cattle, horses, rodents, wild and domestic birds. It also gives a list of animals in the Odessa region in which *Toxoplasma* antibodies were found (an average of 25% positive findings). In the opinion of the writers the infection of man with toxo-

plasmosis is in close connection with animals and in this connection they emphasize the important role played by anthropurgic foci. They also suggest to consider the possible occurrence of toxoplasmosis in animals with infections of an unknown etiology and in this respect to introduce necessary measures to meat inspection. The chapter on the epidemiology deals with the incidence of toxoplasmosis in the various countries, the mechanisms of transmission, immunity and the prevalence of this infection in the inhabitants of the Ukraine in the different geographical regions. While the toxoplasmin skin test was positive in an average of 4.5% of healthy people, its positivity in persons suspected of toxoplasmosis was 29.1%. The fourth chapter discusses the clinical symptomatology and contains thoughts about the pathogenesis, the classification of acute and chronic forms of acquired and congenital toxoplasmosis, questions of laboratory infection and clinical descriptions of the various acute forms: lymphoglandular, exanthematic, cerebral, and ophthalmic toxoplasmosis; among the chronic cases descriptions are given of those with neurological and psychiatric manifestations, those affecting the muscles, the endocrine glands, the eye, the heart and the blood vessels. On 37 pages the writers deal with the problem of the pathogenesis of congenital toxoplasmosis. The authors favour the view that chronic toxoplasmosis of the mother may be responsible for a pathological pregnancy and also, in most instances, for miscarriages, still-borne children, premature delivery, developmental disturbances, an affliction

of the nervous system, of the eyes and the internal organs. In women with a pathological pregnancy diagnostic *Toxoplasma* tests are 3—5-times more frequent than in healthy women. The fifth chapter is dedicated to pathologically-anatomical changes particularly in a *Toxoplasma* encephalitis. Chapter 6 deals with clinical and laboratory diagnostic methods and the interpretation of results of laboratory examinations. In chapter 7 a description is given of therapeutic procedures, and the use of a combination of chloridine (pyrimethamine) and sulphodimezine, applied also during pregnancy. The last chapter discusses preventive measures. The authors consider toxoplasmosis to be a disease with the character of natural focality excluding the participation of blood-sucking arthropod vectors. The main route of transmission is alimentary; therefore, the writers

recommend to pay greatest attention to products from infected animals. The most frequently occurring clinical manifestation is the lymphoglandular form and therefore, patients with these symptoms should be examined and treated. They also recommend to examine for toxoplasmosis all women with a pathological pregnancy. The authors emphasize the importance of a constant collaboration of the health services in the district and the veterinary services and recommend the systematic registration of infected persons. Information should be obtained on the infestation rate in the various settlements and also in professionally endangered groups; consultative, diagnostic centres for toxoplasmosis should be opened in all bigger departments of infectious diseases.

Dr. Jindřich Jíra, CSc.

DIAGNOSTIKA TOKSOPLAZMÓZA (DIAGNOSTICS OF TOXOPLASMOSIS) EDITOR: D. N. ZASUKHIN.

Publ. House "Medicina" Moscow, 1966, 182 pp., 36 ill., 7 Tab. in the text. Price 55 kop.

The Editor of this book, Professor D. N. Zasukhin, Head of the Laboratory for the Research of Toxoplasmosis, Institute of Gamaley, Moscow, edited in collaboration with eleven workers a very practical textbook of laboratory and clinical diagnostics of toxoplasmosis.

The 17 chapters of this book deal with the diagnosis and the differential diagnosis of congenital, acquired and ophthalmic toxoplasmosis, roentgenographical diagnosis, pathological anatomy, principles of laboratory diagnostics, parasitological methods and, in detail, with the individual serological reactions: Sabin—Feldman,

complement-fixation, haemagglutination, fluorescent antibody tests, agglutination, flocculation and precipitation. Also the skin test, the specificity of immunological reaction in toxoplasmosis and their interpretation are discussed. In the bibliography comprising 9 pages of home- and foreign literature, some of the references are not very exactly cited.

This book reviews the present scientific stage and gives the views and experiences of the Moscow group on the problem of toxoplasmosis.

Dr. Jindřich Jíra, CSc.