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Ananyin V. V. (Editor): Leptospirozy lyudey i zhivotnykh (Leptospiroses of man and animals).

Izd. Meditsina, Moskva, 352 pp., 49 Figs., 28 Tables, 1971, price 2 rubles 56 kopeks

Leptospiroses undoubtedly belong to grave diseases of man and animals. Consequently the studies on leptospiroses receive due attention throughout the world. The Soviet Union is one of the countries where these studies have been developed on a large scale and at a high level. As the existing knowledge needed to be classified and generalized, the publication of a monograph which would survey the present state in the research of leptospires and diseases caused by them became very expedient. This task was taken up by a team of 7 scientists of the Gamaleya Institute of Epidemiology and Microbiology, the USSR Academy of Medical Sciences in Moscow, under the leadership of the late Professor V. V. Ananyin, an outstanding specialist in this problem.

The book starts with a historical survey and a systematic-nomenclatorial part including 17 serologic groups and 107 serotypes. The material proper is divided into 11 chapters. Chapter 1 is devoted to morphology and submicroscopic organization of leptospires with regard to the knowledge based on electron microscopy. Chapter 2 deals with metabolism, invasive capability, toxic factors and length of survival in outer environment of pathogenous leptospires and with biology of saprophytic leptospires. Chapter 3 is concerned with immunological problems. Pathogenesis, pathologic anatomy and histology, clinics, diagnostics, differential diagnostics and treatment of leptospiroses are discussed in the next chapter. Chapter 5 covers the problems of laboratory diagnostics: agglutination and lysis test, techniques in analyzing

antigenic structure of leptospires, methods of blood, liquor and urine examination in patients as well as demonstration of leptospires in outer environment. Chapter 6 presents detailed data on the occurrence of leptospires in different groups of mammals and on the character of epizootics in their populations. Chapter 7 is devoted to the possible role of hydrobionts, blood-sucking arthropods, fishes, amphibians, reptiles and birds in the transmission and dissemination of leptospires. The subsequent chapter deals with leptospires in domestic animals (cat, dog, sheep, goat, horse, cattle, pig) and in foxes (breeding species at fox farms). Chapter 9 includes epidemiological problems, mechanism and routes of transmission of the infection, seasonal occurrence of and susceptibility to infection. The geographical distribution of leptospires in particular continents with detailed data on Europe and especially USSR, and spatial structure of natural foci of leptospiroses are subjects discussed in Chapter 10. The last chapter is devoted to prevention of the disease and to anti-epidemiological measures. The book is concluded with a very comprehensive list of literature (a total of 1 190 references).

The monograph deserves a high appreciation. It contains well organized rich materials suitably complemented with tables and figures. It is sure to find a wide range of readers not only among specialists in the field of leptospiroses, but among researchers engaged in the studies on natural foci of diseases, physicians, veterinarians, parasitologists and medical zoologists as well.

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