

Norman D. Levine: *Protozoan parasites of domestic animals and of man. II. edition, 1973. Burgess Publishing Co., Minneapolis, USA. 406 pp.*

The second edition of N. D. Levine's popular book has been profoundly revised as to reflect the tremendous progress in our knowledge of parasitic protozoa achieved during the twelve years which elapsed since its first edition in 1961. The author has quite successfully coped with the logarithmically growing number of facts and succeeded to update his work which can thus keep its role of an authoritative text and reference book for veterinarians, parasitologists and protozoologists. As far as I can see, all recent findings have been involved in the text, with some minor exceptions — e.g., there was probably no time left to include recent data on *Sarcocystis* life cycle. While the emphasis is laid on protozoan parasites of animals, adequate attention is also paid to protozoa of man, revealing especially epidemiological connections with animal sources of infection and relation to similar protozoan species invading animals which both may be appreciated also by physicians. It is a very useful source of information related mainly to the biology and to the invasive process of parasitic protozoa, although the morphology and structure of all important groups and species are also given proper place, making wide use of recent electron microscopic data.

The text is accompanied by what may seem a very limited number of simple line drawings (although their number increased to a certain extent compared to previous edition, mainly to cover new ultrastructural findings); however, there are numerous references to texts where additional information may be found. In the first chapter, introduction to parasitology, Levine stresses various facets of host parasite relations, paying due attention to the natural focality of diseases („nidality" in his usage;

he was among the first advocates of Pavlovsky's theory in the U.S.A.) and also summarizes the economic effects of parasites at a world scale. The second chapter, introduction to protozoa, gives a brief account of their essential characters and of their classification, updated to embrace the recent findings. He keeps using his own system of uniform endings of all higher taxa (of protozoa and host animals, too) which in spite of their uncontested logic still seem very unusual. The following 12 chapters are devoted to individual groups of parasites; parasitic organisms of doubtful or different taxonomic status such as e.g., *Pneumocystis*, are not included. A new chapter has been included, dealing with microsporidia. In each treated protozoan species — as far as those data are available or of relevance — an account is given on its synonymy, name of disease, host range and location, geographical distribution and prevalence, on its structure, pathogenesis, epidemiology, diagnosis, immunity, cultivation, treatment and prevention or control. A list of references is added to the end of each chapter, limited to those which appeared not sooner than 1950, a sacrifice to save the space for other text. The final chapter deals with laboratory diagnosis of protozoan infections, including formulae for essential culture media and staining methods.

In surveying all that is presently known on these protozoa the author discloses also the gaps in our knowledge and thus his book may serve not only as a source of stimuli for further research. An important asset of the book is a very concise and lucid style. It can be recommended to anyone interested in parasitology.

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