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M. Otčenášek, J. Dvořák: Pictorial Dictionary of Medical Mycology
Publ. House Academia, Prague, 229 pp., 212 Figs., 8 colour plates, 1973

In recent years a growing importance of medical mycology for the health of man and domestic animals as well has become manifest. The scope of professional literature has been growing accordingly and the publication of a pictorial dictionary in this line is therefore a welcome editorial feat. Both authors are outstanding specialists with long-time experience in the field of medical mycology and their papers have a wide international response. Thus the compilation of this book was in competent hands.

The dictionary is five-lingual: English-Russian-French-German-Latin. All accompanying texts in the book are four-lingual (except Latin). Following a short introduction, table of contents and explanation of symbols used there are the sections proper. The first section (pp. 21—68) deals with the morphology of pathogenous fungi in great detail. The second section (pp. 69—125) is devoted to the position of fungi in nature, their classification, survey of taxonomic categories, designations of different taxons and a survey of particular pathogenous groups of fungi. The third section (pp. 126—163) concerns mycoses, mycotoxicoses, fungal allergies, poisoning with fungi and mycotoxins. The subsequent five brief sections (pp. 164—176) are dealing with the designation of colours used in mycological descriptions, the antimycotic antibiotics, a survey of abbreviations of authors' names in taxons, the periodicals publishing medical-myc-

logical papers and a list of main mycologic monographs. At the end of the book there are four-lingual subject and authors' indices (pp. 177—219) and an index of Russian terms (pp. 220—229).

Particular sections are well organized, almost every morphological term is referred to the respective figure, and the subsequent two sections devoted to the taxonomy of fungi and mycoses of man are provided with abundant illustrations. The figure schemes are very good and the black-and-white photographs are also excellent. The colour photographs in Plates suitably supplement the whole book.

This pictorial dictionary as a whole should be highly commended. The texts are clear and well organized and the pictorial part is of high standard. However, it is to be regretted that with the names of authors of separate taxons the years are omitted. The book will undoubtedly become a valuable addition to libraries of all researchers engaged in the studies on medical mycology, and many professional terms will be useful to specialists of affiliated scientific fields. It may be considered as a model for similar dictionaries concerning other biological disciplines. The authors should be congratulated on this successful work contributing to international understanding and cooperation in science.

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