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L. V. Chesnova: Problemy obshchey entomologii (Problems of general entomology)

Publ. House Nauka, Moskva 1974, 208 pp., 26 Figs. Price 99 cop.

The book has a subtitle "Development of Transmission Theory" and presents a historical survey of the origin and development of biological sciences dealing with medical arachnoentomology, particularly with the role of arthropods as vectors of man diseases. It is divided into four chapters. The introductory chapter (pp. 5—32) contains the first data on arthropods causing man diseases, starting from the oldest times up to the half of the 19th century. It describes the earliest ideas about the parasitic arthropods, the period of the first micrographic investigations of the 17th century and the following period of descriptive studies. The second chapter (pp. 33—94) deals with the formation of scientific fundaments of medical arachnoentomology, development of the research of morphology, anatomy and systematics of the causative agents and vectors of diseases and the first theoretical generalizations in this subject. The third chapter (pp. 95—183) is devoted to the formation of the transmission theory. It discusses the main prerequisites of the origin of this theory, the history of the discoveries concerning the role of arthropods as vectors of infectious agents of diseases, the formation of the theory on the transmissive role of arthropods and the importance of the transmission theory in general biology with regard to significant participation of the Russian and Soviet biologists in these studies. The fourth chapter (pp. 184—203) deals with the history of organization and management of the scientific work in the domain of parasitology and medical arachnoentomology in both the U.S.S.R. and foreign countries. Each chapter has a special list of literature and the book concludes with an index of names. Photographs of outstanding world parasitologists are attached.

In my opinion, the last chapter should consider also the development of parasitology in socialist and some other European countries after the World War II. There have been founded many parasitological societies and numerous journals are published, which are of importance for this scientific discipline. The period of last 2 to 3 decades in general should be dealt with in more details. As regards the names of foreign authors, the original spelling is recommendable, at least in the name index. There are some misspellings in the names of authors, e.g., Claparéde (p. 91), Dugés (p. 92), Nitsch (p. 93) and also in Latin names of insects, e.g., *Palacopsylla* (p. 5), *T. folftitialis* (p. 23), *Rhinoestris* (p. 51), *Pules* and *C. pipienis* (p. 70), but not very numerous.

The book is a valuable source of information to all readers interested in the historical development of investigations and ideas in the field of medical arachnoentomology. It suggests the author's deep knowledge of this subject and offers a large number of data which otherwise would be hardly available in such a comprehensive form. The author is to be congratulated on the edition of this work.

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