

**O. Jírovec and collaborators: Parasitologie pro lékaře (Parasitology for physicians).**  
 3rd ed. Publ. House Avicenum, Praha 1977, 789 pp., 147 Figs, 189 Photos,  
 Price 85.— Kčs.

A quarter of a century passed since the second edition of the exceptionally successful textbook of medical parasitology has been published. Stimulated by Prof. Jírovec's pupils and collaborators, the Publ. House Avicenum released the third, revised and completed edition, unfortunately, more than 5 years after the death of this prominent scientist and founder of medical parasitology in Czechoslovakia.

The arrangement of the monograph remained unchanged, though topical data of individual chapters were considered in the extent of the book. The introductory section includes prefaces to the I.—III. editions as well as a commemoration of Prof. Otta Jírovec's personality (pp. 9—18). The general section of the book deals with the biology of parasites, the influence of a parasite on its host; greater attention is paid to immunology of parasitic diseases, ecological parasitology and natural focality of infectious diseases of man. The section devoted to the therapy of parasitic diseases was updated and complemented by numerous additions (pp. 19—108). In the second part, attention is given to parasitological techniques, basic examination procedures, breeding of parasitic protozoa and worms, cultivation of leptospire; for the most part rewritten are the chapters dealing with immunological diagnosis of parasitic infections, including a chapter concerning immuno-fluorescent technique in parasitology as well as an interpretation of immuno-diagnostic methods (pp. 109—200).

Parasitic protozoa, namely the species which in recent years have attracted the main interest (*Toxoplasma*, *Sarcocystis*, *Frenkelia*, *Besnoitia*, *Hammondia*), and also amoebae of the group "*limax*" have received serious attention. A voluminous chapter deals with the diseases caused by *Pneumocystis carinii*. To an adequate extent also *Trichomonas vaginalis*, worm protozoa and tropical protozoan infections are discussed (pp. 201—436). An individual chapter concerns leptospire and leptospiroses, offering

a good survey on biology, pathogenity and virulence of individual leptospire species and a characterization of diseases caused by them (pp. 437—456).

The fifth section on parasitic worms has maintained except some additions its character as given by Prof. Jírovec in the previous editions. Great attention is given to morphology, biological cycle of individual parasitic worms, their medical importance and diseases caused by them. Clear arrangement and numerous illustrations are the characteristic features of this section (pp. 457—600). The last section includes medically important arthropods as serious vectors and causative agents of diseases. Amply illustrated chapters concerning medical entomology will attract the reader's interest by its lively style (pp. 601—724).

A very valuable final section comprises parasitological literature, providing wide information about the textbooks on parasitology and publications dealing with parasitic diseases on the whole. It should be welcomed that the authors provided the monograph with a list of selected periodicals and journals devoted to parasitology and with a necessary index as well.

The monograph is extraordinarily well-arranged, maintaining its excellent standard, equivalent to foreign publications. Jírovec's style and expression have been fully respected by all collaborators thanks to a very good editorial work of the team guided by J. Kramář and J. Jíra. Essential changes have been noted in documentation — both photographs and drawings are of high quality, in majority of cases original or by Jírovec's pupils.

In spite of its large scope, the textbook maintains its clear arrangement and yields much information for everyone who concerns himself with medical practice, but mainly for undergraduates and post-graduates in Medical Faculties.

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