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W. L. Jellison: Tularemia in North America.

University of Montana, Missoula 1974, 276 pp., numerous Figs.

Tularemia is one of the best known and most comprehensively studied diseases with natural foci in the Old World today. Considerable efforts have been also devoted to its research in the country of its origin — in the United States. Dr. W. L. Jellison, the author of this publication, made outstanding contributions to these studies and in his book attempted to summarize all available data until 1974. Over 42,000 cases had already been reported in the USA by that year and a publication of a comprehensive survey of this disease seemed therefore very urgent.

The book is divided into 19 chapters. The first chapter is devoted to the history of tularemia, its discovery and to the first investigations. Chapter 2 deals with different clinical and epidemiological types of tularemia, while Chapter 3 presents a survey of various laboratory infections. The importance of different mammals and birds as reservoir animals and the role of ectoparasites as vectors are discussed in Chapters 4 and 5. The short sixth chapter gives an account of special studies in Minnesota and Utah. The subsequent chapter, containing 200 pages and entitled Geographical distribution, is the largest of all. It reports concrete facts and data from particular states of the USA, accompanied by numerous maps, and data from Canada, Mexico

and Japan as well. It is followed by ten brief chapters covering no more than 50 pages, respectively entitled Diagnosis, Pathology, Therapy, Vaccines and Vaccination, Bacteriology, Cultures, Virulence, Anecdotal, Incidence, Tularemia and Spotted Fever. The chapter before last presents the biographies of five prominent researchers: E. Francis, R. G. Green, R. R. Parker, R. A. Pearse and W. B. Wherry. The concluding chapter contains references to literature on tularemia. Author and correspondent index, arthropod index and vertebrate index are appended for the assistance of the reader.

The book may be very positively evaluated: it is well organized, includes a large number of data, clear maps and references accompanying particular chapters and subchapters. The reproductions of original papers and specimens of different texts are suitable, too. The author has persuasively demonstrated that he is very well informed about the problems of tularemia in the USA and presented the topic in an interesting form. The reader will find detailed and useful information in the book. The appearance of this sort of books may be therefore welcomed.

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