

N. D. Levine: Textbook of veterinary parasitology. Burgess Publishing Company, Minneapolis 1978, 236 pp. Price 34.95 \$.

The problems of parasitoses afflicting domestic animals remain to be of great importance even today, mainly due to large livestock units being established in the ever increasing degree. On a world scale losses caused by parasites are reaching astronomical sums. In the United States the losses in a single year 1965 constituted over 1218 million dollars. The appearance of publications which would inform the reader about these problems on the level of contemporary knowledge seems to be a very topical task, indeed. The reviewed Textbook of veterinary parasitology, written by Professor N. D. Levine, one of the prominent world specialists in this scientific discipline, undoubtedly belongs to this category of publications.

The book is divided into 35 chapters arranged in four sections. The first section, entitled Generalities, explains basic parasitological concepts, enumerates the ways in which parasites may injure their hosts and briefly also touches on problems of chemotherapy. The author distinguishes parasitosis as an association between two organisms in which one injures the other, causing signs and lesions of disease, and parasitiasis as a similar association in which the parasite — potentially pathogenic — does not cause signs of disease. Section II is devoted to parasites. Protozoa, Trematodes, Cestodes, Nematodes and Arthropoda are discussed here in five relevant parts. Each of them is provided with an introductory chapter, outlining the most important morphological, anatomical and biological characteristics of the groups discussed together with their systems. Subsequent chapters deal with the particular supraspecific taxons important in veterinary medicine (in chapters devoted to different parasites in either way — from superclass to genus) and with species. The reader will find most factual data with genera and mainly with species. Emphasized are before all parasites occurring in North America, but species beyond this continent are not omitted either. The next section III is focused on hosts. Listed are parasite species occurring in cattle, sheep and goats, equids, swine, dogs and cats, and poultry, namely in their particular body parts and its systems such as head, digestive tract, respiratory, cardiovascular and urogenital systems, muscles, skin, other organs and tissues. With particular parasitoses discussed are their epizootology (less suitably called epidemiology), pathogene-

sis, immunity, diagnosis, prevention and control, and public health considerations. The final section IV represents an appendix containing descriptions of five diagnostic techniques. At the end of the book there are references cited (4 pages), a list of most important parasitological monographs and a combined author-subject index.

On the whole, this book may be very positively evaluated. It reflects the wide professional erudition and teaching experience of the author. The material is presented comprehensively, with an emphasis on essential facts. The text is suitably supplemented with figures numbered within relevant chapters. Of great value for the veterinary practice is primarily section III, where the data on parasites are arranged according to hosts and their body parts. Professor Levine applied in the book his concept about uniform endings for particular systematic categories within all phyla. Thus, the superclass has the ending -asica, the class -asida, the subclass -asina, the superorder -orica, the order -orida and the suborder -orina. It would be certainly ideal if uniform endings of all suprafamilial categories existed in the whole zoological system, because such an arrangement would facilitate explicit discernment of their hierachic position. However, this would be hardly feasible, for the very reason that individual groups have different nomenclatory tradition. A specialist would consider it strange to use the wording Ascadorida, instead of Ascaridata, or Sarcoptorina instead of Sarcoptiformes. The author was well aware of this fact and in the survey of insect orders he retained the usual denominations, e.g. Mallophaga, Diptera etc. In this connection it should be pointed out that in his concept of uniform endings for different categories Professor Levine has paid no attention to the recommendation of article 29 A of International code of zoological nomenclature, because the ending proposed by him for superfamilies — icae contradicts the currently used ending — oidea.

In conclusion it should be stated that Professor Levine's textbook is an excellent work which in its concept and compilation exceeds the borders of the country where it has been written, and which will serve as a source of valuable information to a wide range of all those interested in veterinary theory and practice.

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