

**B. von Bonsdorff: *Diphyllobothriasis in Man*. Academic Press, London 1977, 189 pp., 32 Figs. Price £ 9.50.**

The book presents a survey of the most important data on the biology of the cestodes including a detailed list of intermediate and definitive hosts, description of developmental stages, their resistance and requirements for the environment and circulation in nature. The morphology, physiology and biochemistry of the parasite are also described.

Further chapters, the extents of which are proportional to the topics, deal with the epidemiology, clinical symptoms, control and pathogenesis of diphyllobothriasis. The author reports on the importation of diphyllobothriasis to various regions during the World War II, the geographical distribution of the parasite all over the world, and effect of food and hygiene on its further distribution. The chapter concerning the control of this parasite comprises all literature on the treatment and prevention of the disease. Of great value is the part dealing with clinical symptoms where the author describes in detail changes in the blood picture, deficiency in  $B_{12}$  vitamin, gastrointestinal and nervous disturbances in patients. In this part, as well as in other chapters and subchapters,

he compares his own results and observations with those of many other authors.

Very important and extensive is the part devoted to diphyllobothritic pernicious anemia, reaction of the host organism, genetic predisposition, absorption of  $B_{12}$  vitamin and other vitamins of B group, C and A vitamins and intestinal microflora in patients. Also the localization of the parasite in the intestine is dealt with. The author did not omit to include in the monograph also the discussion about the validity of the remaining species of this genus.

Considering that about nine millions of people suffer from this disease, among them five millions in Europe, four millions in Asia and some in America, the edition of this monograph is a praiseworthy work. The author summarized in this book all what has been known about this problem and his scientific erudition and research experience of many years are reflected in the whole conception.

The book will certainly become an important tool not only for physicians and haematologists, but also for biologists, zoologists and veterinarians.

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