

W. Tischler: Grundriss der Humanparasitologie. 2 Aufl. Gustav Fischer Verlag Jena und Gustav Fischer Verlag Stuttgart — New York 1977, 189 pp., 76 Figs., 6 Tables. Price 15,50M, 19,80 DM.

Parasitic diseases today retain their serious medical importance and many of them are even gaining ground in our conditions. No wonder that still new monographs are being published dealing with different aspects of parasitological problems.

At first glance the reader will note that the book differs from similar textbooks on humane parasitology in the presentation of the material and in its graphic design. It is divided into two main sections respectively devoted to general and special parasitology. In the first part of general parasitology parasitism is compared with other interrelations between organisms, the second part deals with parasites of man, their brief systematic survey, history of humane parasitology and importance of parasites in human history. Moreover, different aspects of parasitism, phylogenesis of parasites, reaction between host and parasite, relationships to environment and natural foci of parasitoses are discussed. Individual major parts of special parasitology, are treated as follows: Infection with parasites in meat diet; Active penetration of helminths; Hematophagous insects with flying capacity and their importance in the transmission of parasites; Temporary parasitic arthropods without flying capacity and their importance in the transmission of diseases; Permanent parasitic arthropods without flying capacity and their importance in the transmission of diseases; Synanthropic flies.

The whole publication is characterized by a marked ecological approach to the discussed material and thus reveals the professional view and wide erudition of its author. It is interesting to note that Professor Tischler treats as parasites not only protozoans, helminths and arthropods as is usually done in most textbooks,

but also viruses, rickettsiae, bacteria and fungi, and consequently includes a wide ecological view in the concept of parasitism. In the systematics and morphology of particular groups only basic necessary data are given, the main attention is focused on species causing the diseases proper. Their listing is also arranged from the ecological angle. The reader will find the most important necessary facts in relevant columns. The simple, but very telling schemes of parasite life cycles and communicable chains of infections should be highly commended, no less than the charts of geographic distribution of parasites and diseases caused by them. These constitute the main contents of illustrations. Though the whole material is treated succinctly, it is undoubtedly quite informative. During proof reading some inaccuracies in Latin names have been overlooked. They are either misspelt (*Ornithodorus* — p. 161, *Phthirus* — p. 169) or distorted (*O. pallidipes* instead of *papillipes* — p. 162). In some places of the text the species is indicated according to its old systematic listing, e.g. *Alveococcus multilocularis* as subspecies of the species *Echinococcus granulosus*.

The book is designed primarily for undergraduates in medicine and biology. It meets their needs very well, providing facts about parasites as causative agents and vectors of diseases. For its illustrative character it will be undoubtedly also used by teachers and as a well of knowledge it will be welcomed by other specialists.

Despite its small scope the book ranks as one of the most successful parasitological publications which have appeared recently.

Dr. V. Černý, C.Sc.