

M. P. Kozlov: Chuma (Plague). *Publ. House Meditsina, Moskva 1979, 191 pp., 8 Figs, 6 Tables. Price 65 kop.*

Plague belongs to classic diseases characterized by the natural focality phenomenon. Today, there are about 50 countries in whose territories natural foci of plague have been found or their occurrence is anticipated. One of the countries which is paying long-term constant attention to plague research, is the Soviet Union. Extensive network of anti-plague stations, qualified personnel and perfect complex of preventive measures ward off epidemics of this disease despite the existence of natural foci of plague in the USSR territory. Although much work has been done in studying the consistent patterns of the plague incidence and the characteristics of its natural foci, and hundreds of publications have been devoted to these problems a number of questions still remains unsolved and opinions of specialists in the evaluation of some phenomena are differing.

The subtitle of M. P. Kozlov's book is "Natural focality, epizootology, epidemic manifestation". It contains a survey of concrete data and contemporary views, primarily from this field. Apart from the introduction and conclusion the book is divided into 8 chapters:

I. General biological patterns facilitating the bacteria to become parasites of certain animal species; II. Global origin of the causative agent and of natural foci of plague; III. Interrelationships between the causative agent and the plague carriers; IV. Interrelationships between the plague microbe and its vectors, the fleas; V. The role of main carriers in the formation of natural foci of plague and in the maintenance of epizootic process; VI. General consistent patterns in the epizootic process of plague; VII. Epidemic manifestation of plague in natural foci in the USSR territory and adjoining countries; VIII. Problems of plague control.

The book presents a good survey on the status quo in the research of plague in the USSR territory, contains many original views of the author, does not avoid disputable problems. However, not all papers cited in the text are included in the list of literature. The publication will be surely of interest to specialists in the research of natural focality of diseases, to parasitologists, medical zoologists and epidemiologists as well.

Dr. V. Černý, C.Sc.