

L. H. Lamy: Protozoaires et Helminthes Parasites. Recherche et Identification au Laboratoire. Maloine S. A. (Ed.), Paris 1980, 620 pp., 247 Figs. Price 188 F.

This book appeared in a series entitled "Techniques de Base" which is a French methodological series dealing with basic techniques in microbiology, serology and immunology. Since its first edition, the aim of the book of professor Lamy has been to give the reader an authoritative review of methods currently used in the diagnosis of parasitic protozoa and helminths.

Third edition of the book is a measure of the popularity the book has enjoyed. The present edition has, however, been completed by the addition of a considerable amount of general data mostly from the field of theoretical parasitology, classification and phylogeny of organisms, their life cycles, host-parasite relationship etc. Some more advanced parasitological techniques used in research were also included. These additions are for the benefit of the reader who is now more able to understand the significance of his diagnostic findings.

First part of the book is devoted to general parasitology, which is followed by a review of individual techniques used for diagnostic of parasites in different kinds of clinical material. Next part of the book is devoted to parasitic protozoa, treating first their general characters. This is followed by a more detailed account of individual groups of parasitic protozoa and later of individual species which are of importance in practical parasitology. In each species the description of the structure of the organism is given stressing its diagnostic features and listing the recommended methods for diagnosis. This is followed by brief data on localization, frequency and distribution and pathogenicity.

Helminths are treated according to a similar scheme. The book is closed by a short list of principal periodics and text books in the field of parasitology. Three subjects were purposely omitted from the book: immunological techniques (covered in a special volume of the same series) clinical questions and therapy of parasitic diseases.

Although the general contents of the book seem to be similar to several other textbooks of parasitology, the book by Dr. Lamy is special in several respects. One has to appreciate the clarity and conciseness with which the data of the book are selected and presented. The amount of general information and the technical aspects of the book are well balanced. This certainly reflects author's enormous personal experience in parasitology. Similarly concise is the presentation of individual techniques which are presented with full explanation of their principles and with details useful in their application. The book is accompanied by a number of schematic drawings and well chosen photographs.

There is very little which can be criticized in Dr. Lamy's book: a few typographical errors and omission of some, most recent information concerning some parasitic groups of minor importance in practical diagnosis-e.g. microsporidia and sarcosporidia.

It can be concluded that the book by professor Lamy is a very useful piece of work which can be recommended as a standart manual for each parasitological laboratory.

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