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Rezensionen – Analyses – Reviews

J. J. M. Sauter: Xerophthalmia and measles in Kenya. Thesis, Groningen 1976.

Trachoma, ocular onchocerciasis and xerophthalmia remain the main causes of blindness in the developing world (WHO techn. rep. ser. 1973 no. 518). Of these, xerophthalmia is the most common at pre-school age, often combined with malnutrition. The severest forms, keratomalacia and corneal blindness, are only the little part of the iceberg, and the extension of conjunctival and corneal xerosis is not well known (PAHO sci. publ. 1970 no. 198).

The author has made an ocular survey of 6,000 pre-school and 14,000 school-children and of 8,500 adults in all parts of Kenya. He developed simple, safe, sensitive and cheap methods of ophthalmic examination which can be used by health workers and under field conditions. They essentially consist of inspection of the eye with a paperclip transformed into an eyelid retractor, and of vital staining of the conjunctiva with 1% rose bengal by means of a 10 μ l pipette with disposable tip. There is an accurate description of all stages of xerophthalmia including night blindness, conjunctival xerosis (presenting as dry, opaque spots of the conjunctiva not moistened by the pre-ocular tear-film), Bitot's spots, corneal xerosis and erosions, keratomalacia and scar formation, illustrated by a set of 48 marvellous colour photographs. The results of the survey are presented rather at length and in detail, and are not easy to read. Besides proving the examination method useful in the field, they show that xerophthalmia occurs throughout Kenya, a country subsisting mainly on white maize.

A second, smaller part of the monography is devoted to measles kerato-conjunctivitis. Ocular scrapings of well and ill nourished children were searched for giant cell formation, and conjunctival biopsies were taken. Whereas measles in well-nourished children is of no consequences to the eye, the viral infiltration into the ocular epithelia of a child with malnutrition will stop the mucous production of the epithelial cells, and as a result there is a quick precipitation of xerophthalmia.

The author is to be complemented on this monography which is valuable for ophthalmologists, pediatricians, tropical doctors and public health officers. It is to hope that the preventive measures proposed by the author will lead to a quick and massive reduction of xerophthalmia in Kenya and other parts of the world.

D. Stürchler, Basel

Grundlagen der enzymatischen Analyse. Hg. von Hans Ulrich Bergmeyer in Zusammenarbeit mit Karlfried Gawehn. XII, 267 Seiten mit 99 Abbildungen und 30 Tabellen. Verlag Chemie, Weinheim/New York 1977. DM 44.– (ISBN 3-527-25677-6).

This book contains a description of the principles of "enzymatic analysis" – which, according to the editors, consists of the determination of substances with the help of enzymes, determination of enzymic activity and the determination of substances with the help of enzyme-labelled conjugates. The chapters describe the theoretical basis of the methods, the apparatus which can be used and the analysis of the resulting data. Although much of the information contained is rather elementary the book is very well composed and should be of value to clinical biochemists and research biochemists with a particular interest in analysis.

R. A. Yeates, Basel

Peters W., Gilles H. M.: A colour atlas of tropical medicine and parasitology. 416 p., ill., tab. Wolfe Medical Publications Ltd., London 1977 (Wolfe Medical Atlases, vol. 17). £ 18.36 (ISBN 07234-0176-4).

The well known series of medical colour atlases has been recently completed by a new volume concerning tropical medicine and parasitology. The large field of tropical diseases is described in 763 photos and diagrams, most of them in colours. Besides the distribution maps, the agents, the

vectors, the laboratory techniques and the main symptoms of the different diseases are demonstrated. Clear and short commentaries explain the instructive pictures. Everybody interested in tropical medicine will find this book helpful as an illustrated commentary to the classical textbooks. We are sure it will find a place not only in the bookshelves but also in the pockets of the tropical doctors.

E. Stahel, Basel

A. I. Rosenberg: Diphyllobothriides and diphyllobothrioses of medical-veterinary significance. Index of native and foreign literature 1558–1972. 302 pp., Karelia Publishers, Petrozavodsk 1977. 1,33 Rubels (in Russian, with English title page).

The book is divided into four main bibliographic sections: a) national literature in Russian language, b) literature in languages of the peoples of the USSR (Armenian, Belorussian, Estonian, Grusinian, Latvian, Lithuanian, Ukrainian) – 2337 items in total – c) literature in foreign languages, d) foreign literature in Russian languages – 880 items in total. It also contains an extensive subject index and two geographical registers. The following species of *Diphyllobothrium* are treated: *D. latum*, *D. alascense*, *D. cordatum*, *D. dalliae*, *D. dentriticum*, *D. ditremum*, *D. giljadicum*, *D. luxi*, *D. minus*, *D. nenzi*, *D. norvegicum*, *D. osmeri*, *D. pacificum*, *D. salvelini*, *D. skrjabini*, *D. sobolevi*, *D. strictum*, *D. tungussicum*, *D. ursi*, *D. vogeli* and – as a “supplement” – *D. gasterostei* (sp.nov.), plerocercoids of type F and *Diphyllobothrium* spp. (without species determination). The publication of this valuable bibliography deserves a warm welcome; it will be an extremely useful working tool for all those interested in the subject, because it gives a vast amount of information and fills a gap.

Completeness is impossible in such a matter. Publications of the Soviet Union seem to be taken into consideration exhaustively, some articles in foreign languages are missing. The difficult text is carefully revised and accurately printed; a shortcoming is the insertion of some publications by title in the authors' catalogue – despite the presence of names of authors in the original publication – a custom normally used for anonyma only. The designation of a new species – *Diphyllobothrium gasterostei* – in the subject and geographical indices only (without giving description and diagnosis) does not correspond to the International Rules of Zoological Nomenclature and will, in this form at least, be a nomen nudum.

The book can be strongly recommended to all parasitologists working with Diphyllobothriidae or interested in diphyllobothriosis of man and animals. Unfortunately, the limited edition of only 800 copies will prevent its wide circulation.

B. Hörning, Bern