

REVIEWS

PARASITES AND PARASITIC INFECTIONS IN EARLY MEDICINE
AND SCIENCE

By R. Hoeppli, M.D., D.Sc., (Pp. XIV + 526, 23 plates, 1959).

Hong Kong: Cathay Press for University of Malaya Press, Singapore, Price M\$25/-

By bringing together in one volume the knowledge of parasites and parasitic infections and the erroneous beliefs held about them by the ancient peoples of the world the author has done considerable service to historically-minded parasitologists and scientists.

The author's long experience as Professor of Parasitology at the Peking Union Medical College and his knowledge of Chinese has made it possible for him to quote extensively from Chinese classical literature which is not readily accessible to scholars today. There are also extensive quotations, together with translations, from the original Greek, Roman, Italian, French and German texts.

The book is divided into three sections. Part I deals with the knowledge of parasites, pseudo-parasites and imaginary parasites and their role in medicine up to the middle of the seventeenth century. Part II deals with more specialized subjects such as Malaria, Dysentery and Anthelmintics in China; the similarity of views held by the indigenous population of Fiji, Tahiti, North Borneo and Malaya with those of the ancient Chinese; Parasites in religion; and the Moon in Biology and Medicine. Part III outlines the increasing knowledge of parasites during the period from the advent of the microscope to the middle of the nineteenth century.

Each chapter has a résumé at the beginning and some notes and a list of references at the end. The book concludes with an Appendix, a subject Index, an Index of Names and a list of Illustrations. The thirty-three Plates reproduce early illustrations of some common parasites, some imaginary and pseudo-parasites, and non-rational methods of treatment of parasitic infections.

The printing and binding of the book leaves little to be desired and the Cathay Press of Hong Kong deserves to be congratulated. The types are large and clear and considering that there are extensive quotations in several languages including classical Chinese the book is relatively free from errors. There is a list of errata in a Postscript.

The author is to be congratulated in presenting to the medical and scientific historians in one volume a wealth of material, fully authenticated with bibliography and quotations, which will serve as a basis for further research by the serious student. It is a volume that should be among the Reference Collection of every medical and scientific library and should adorn the shelves of every biologist.

A. A. Sandosham

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ANATOMY: REGIONAL AND APPLIED

By Last, R.J. 2nd. Edition, 1959.

London: H.K. Lewis & Co. Ltd.

There has been little change in either the gross architecture of the human body or our knowledge of it during the past 100 years. To justify publication of a new anatomy book therefore necessarily requires an approach not hitherto taken by one of the myriad of such books already available on the first and second hand book counters throughout the world. Dr. R.J. Last, Professor of Applied Anatomy at the Royal College of Surgeons of England has primarily designed this book to aid the applicant

in studying for the F.R.C.S. examination in Anatomy. When the Professor hands out a list of potential examination questions only the foolhardy applicant would not prefer the necessary 80 shillings and bone up on its contents! As such this book—quite apart from any other value—is a must for F.R.C.S. applicants.

With such a limited aim this book might have turned out to be a deadly dull refurrowing

of an already well ploughed field of medicine. Instead it is a readable, clear, and concise summary of practical anatomy.

This book makes no pretence of being an exhaustive reference, but merely reviews the general field of anatomy with special reference to points of clinical and particularly surgical-importance. It is organised along regional lines and not according to the classic technique divided into systems. Allegedly this design is for use with a cadaver but one suspects that in the majority of cases this book will not be used as a dissecting manual.

The occasional references to microscopic anatomy are merely to give a background for the gross descriptions, and also act, I suppose, to warn the F.R.C.S. applicant that microanatomy might be included in the examination. Such superficial references add little to the book.

Perhaps the best feature of this book is the illustrations, which on the whole are original, clear-cut and liberally used to expand on the text. They achieve that rarity among anatomic illustrations—simplicity. So often the anatomic illustrator becomes so carried away by his art that the resultant picture is meaning-

less in teaching anatomic relations. Professor Last has avoided the classical pitfall of crowding everything visible on a specimen into his illustration with the usual spider-web like lines connecting Latin names to obscure bits of anatomic detail. In this book Professor Last has dared to simplify and the results with a few exceptions are excellent teaching aids.

In a number of the illustrations colour is effectively used for major arteries, veins and nerves according to the pattern used in the *British Journal of Surgery* and so oddly lacking in similar publications from other parts of the world.

This book is well printed, bound and edited with a good table of contents and cross references.

This is far more than a cram book for the F.R.C.S. anatomy examination. Although by no means an exhaustive anatomic reference book I reserve this, its second edition, to be used by students and for the occasional reference by surgeons. The applicant for the Royal College of Surgeons examination will no doubt find it essential.

B. Eiseman
