

## REVIEW

## CLINICAL METHODS IN TROPICAL MEDICINE

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General textbooks of Tropical Medicine must of necessity cover all the diseases seen in the wide tropical belt in a systematic fashion. Emphasis will depend to a large extent on the interest and experience of the authors. Hence these books are more for reference rather than for general guidance to someone completely new in the field. This book from the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine differs in this respect as the title suggests. It has the happy combination of one with the traditional clinical approach aided by simple laboratory investigations.

The authors' frequent stress on the importance of knowledge of the geographical distribution of diseases is a constant reminder of the value of this fact in bedside diagnosis. If one only remembers that "common things commonly occur" eso-

teric but incorrect diagnosis will be made less often.

One statement in this book found also in many other British textbooks deserves comment. That is that rheumatic valvular disease is less common in the tropics than in Europe. This is far from the truth in certain regions for example South East Asia. The section on Fever is particularly well written. To the novice from the temperate zones the chapter on investigative procedures will come in handy.

All in all this compact little book, written in a concise and simple style, and abundantly illustrated, should be invaluable to those working in the tropics for the first time. For the medical student and doctor trained in the tropics it ought to find a useful place in his medical library.

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