

REVIEW

BILHARZIASIS (A Ciba Foundation Symposium)

Edited by G.E.W. Wolstenholme, O.B.E., M.A., M.B., M.R.C.P., and Maeve O'Connor, B.A.

Pp. xiii + 433 with 46 illustrations. LONDON: J. A. Churchill Ltd. 1962. Price 60s.

This volume consists of twenty one papers presented at the symposium on Schistosomal disease held in Cairo in 1962. The symposium was held in commemoration of Theodor Maximilian BILHARZ who, in 1852, was the first to recover the worms from the mesenteric veins of a native of Cairo. The twenty six contributors in the symposium, including a team of ten Egyptian workers, are amongst the top research workers in the field of Schistosomiasis. The papers vary in their quality, some are original articles while others give general reviews. Ten separate sections of the book are devoted to discussions in which there is summing up of the preceding papers. The well recorded questions and answers are highly stimulating and the reader is brought closer to the atmosphere of the symposium.

Although the name BILHARZIASIS is retained as a title of the symposium in honour of the discoverer of the parasite, *SCHISTOSOMIASIS* ought to have been adopted since it is scientifically acceptable and approved by the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature.

The first few papers give detailed account of the ecology, transmission related to the intermediate host, epidemiological problems and the morphology of bulinid snails. A particularly interesting paper on the role of animal reservoirs in Schistosomal infections has more to offer than the pure academic interest. The subject of

zoonosis, now coming into the forefront, has revolutionised the preventive measures against infections previously thought of as infallible. Two other papers dealt with the clinical and nutritional aspects of the disease. It is most gratifying to note that Dr. El Mofty emphasised in his paper, and later on in the discussion, that liver changes in Schistosomiasis should no longer be referred to as cirrhosis. Modern research methods were utilized in the study presented in a paper dealing with radio-active antimony-124; antimony compounds being used for treatment of Schistosomiasis.

The symposium, a combined effort, marks the enormous development which has taken place in the study of parasitic diseases and particularly Schistosomiasis. The book, therefore, is of great value to the research worker and also has its place in the study of preventive measures. The text is clear, the subject indexing is simple and adequate, the illustrations are good and the Editors seem to have succeeded in establishing continuity and presented brief conclusions in the last twelve pages. The references, listed after each paper, are in most instances adequate but only a few of the papers refer to Continental and Far Eastern Literature.

The Editors and the Ciba Foundation are to be congratulated on the publication of this worthy contribution to the study of Schistosomiasis.

M. Y. Ali

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BOOKS RECEIVED

1. Petit guide de la Suisse climatique. Published by Association Suisse des Stations Climatique (Price unmarked).
2. The Assessment of Pain in Man and Animals. (The Proceedings of an International Symposium held under the Auspices of UFAW 1961). Ed. Keele, C.A., Robert Smith. Livingstone, Edinburgh and London. 30s.