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Rezenion – Analyse – Review

Tropical and Geographical Medicine. Edited by Kenneth S. Warren and Adel A. F. Mahmoud. McGraw-Hill Book Company, New York 1984 (ISBN 0-07-068327-1). XVII + 1175 pages. Illustrated. Price: SFr. 207.–

In their preface, the editors describe the book as a well-balanced and wide-ranging work compiled for the use of students as well as scientists and clinicians all over the world. The book is divided into 8 parts, each of them dealing with a particular type of disease, i.e. virology, helminthology, nutritional disorders etc. Each chapter is then presented systematically, with clear subtitles allowing the reader to find quickly the subject he is looking for. The illustrations, mainly pictures of the infectious agents, are of excellent quality. The book gives a clear picture of the complexity and interdependence of the physiopathology, the vector ecology, the diagnosis, the treatment and the prevention of each tropical disease. The panorama given is most ample, and the very complete bibliography will enable the interested reader to work thoroughly on the subjects of his choice. It is, however, a work primarily aimed at the reader who is looking for extensive scientific information and at the physician or medical student who is practising in a country which can rely on a medical system of high technology. Some fundamental concepts important for medicine in developing countries such as primary health care, essential drugs, sanitation and the like are unfortunately missing. A clinician will also regret the absence of laboratory guidelines and tables for parasitological diagnosis. Tropical and Geographical Medicine can be recommended to everybody who desires a comprehensive approach to tropical diseases.

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