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Book Review

W. E. Farrer, M. J. Wood, J. A. Innes, H. Tubbs
Infectious Diseases: Text and Color Atlas, 2nd ed.
392 pages, 471 figures
Gower Medical Publishing, London-New York 1991
Price: \$ 175.-

The author's aim was to provide a comprehensive survey in words and pictures of frequent and more rare infectious diseases, including tropical diseases, and those of special importance. This is fully realized.

Numerous illustrations - clinical pictures supplemented by microbiological, parasitological and histological colour presentations, radiographs and CT- pictures as well as charts comprise more than half of the book. It is divided into 14 chapters which deal with both, body regions and organ systems (lower respiratory tract, urinary tract, gastrointestinal tract, etc.). In a separate contribution systemic infections are presented (from septicaemia via malaria, tularaemia, to disseminated fungal infections). Fourteen pages on HIV infections and AIDS follow.

The depicted infectious diseases are explained in a concise text. The information on pathogenic agents, clinical forms of progress, hints on diagnostics and therapy, in some cases in the form of dosage schemes, are scientifically up-to-date.

The presentation of clinical pictures according to body regions and organ systems is in part repetitious but the synopsis has the advantage of a detailed index.

The layout of the book is striking and the presentations are technically excellent. Thus, this book not only reaches the interested specialist in infectious diseases but will also address many representatives in other fields for whom a quick visual orientation with a concise presentation of diagnosis and therapy indications is important.

This book is a broad overview, and lacks references, which would have been useful for students. Despite some shortcomings, it is an excellent book and a pleasure to read. One can only wish that it will have a wide readership.

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Berlin-Buch