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DISEASES IN THE HOMOSEXUAL MALE

Michael W. Adler (ed.)

With 31 Figures

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Cover illustration: (Top left) Dark-ground photomicrograph of
Treponema pallidum. (Top right) CT scan: ring shadow of cerebral
toxoplasmosis with surrounding oedema. (Bottom) Electron
micrograph of an HBV carrier serum showing 42nm Dane particles
and smaller 22nm spherical forms and occasional filaments
($\times 44800$).

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Series Editor's Foreword

The Bloomsbury Series in Clinical Science is growing and changing. Its Editorial Board and contributors were all originally selected from, or had links with, the University College and Middlesex School of Medicine. Now, as the Series develops, board members and contributors alike identify with the wider reaches of Bloomsbury and Islington.

The aims of the Series remain, however, to highlight, to review and to record significant areas of research and development in the field of clinical science. All contributors are experts in their particular field and monographs may be the work of a single author or several, guided by individual editors.

Diseases in the Homosexual Male is the third monograph in the Series. Edited by Michael Adler, Professor of Genito-Urinary Medicine at the University College and Middlesex School of Medicine, it presents contributions from a number of distinguished workers with special expertise. AIDS has perhaps highlighted the problem but this monograph illustrates the wider profile and gives witness to the multidisciplinary nature of clinical science.

London, July 1988

Jack Tinker

Preface

It is interesting to reflect that, prior to the advent of the acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS), a book on diseases in homosexual men might have been seen as of little importance. This is not so, of course, as would be attested by those working in the field of sexually transmitted diseases. This book is not about AIDS, even though we have included two clinical chapters on the subject. Instead, it is written to show the wide variety of clinical diseases apart from AIDS that can occur among homosexual men and which can be acquired via the sexual route. The fact that a disease and/or organisms can be spread sexually has often been first realised in homosexual men. This occurred with hepatitis B, protozoal infections, and of course, the human immunodeficiency virus.

I have also felt it important to include two non-clinical chapters on sociological and historical perspectives of homosexuality and AIDS. This has been done to illustrate that “nothing is that new” and that important lessons need to be learnt from history. The lessons show us that the punitive approach to minority groups has never worked.

November 1987

M. W. A.

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