

Book reviews

The question of Aids

by R. Liebmman-Smith

New York Academy of Sciences, New York, 1985

89 pages

AIDS: Questions and answers

by V.G. Daniels

Cambridge Medical Books, Cambridge, 1986

95 pages

Among the large number of books and brochures about AIDS intended to inform the general public, these two books stand out. The first book is unique in its very successful attempt to translate for laymen the conclusions of a scientific meeting on AIDS organized by the New York Academy in 1983. The book is, however, not restricted to the meeting and later developments are included and up-dated. Apart from the biomedical aspects of AIDS, there is a very interesting chapter on the sociobiological impact of the disease on the homosexual community in the post-liberation era.

The book by V.G. Daniels consists of 57 questions concerning the medical and social problems related to AIDS. The answers are written in plain English and are full of practical advice. Four appendices are added, three of which contain scientific background information. The fourth appendix gives many addresses in the U.K. and the U.S.A. where further information and practical help can be obtained. This book is therefore highly recommended to AIDS-patients, risk groups and people who are directly dealing with the disease. The book by Liebmman-Smith puts the disease in a general scientific perspective and is therefore more suited for a more general public, scientists not excluded.

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