

## BOOK REVIEW

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### A Review of *Color Atlas of Tropical Medicine and Parasitology*

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**REFERENCE:** Peters, Wallace, M.D. and Gilles, Herbert M., M.D., *Color Atlas of Tropical Medicine and Parasitology*, Year Book Publishers, Chicago, Ill., 1977, \$45.00

This excellent color atlas is another in the series of more than two dozen color atlases produced mostly in England and printed in Holland. These books cover a wide variety of fields of medicine and invariably adhere strictly to the task indicated in their titles, namely to produce a color atlas. The present opus on tropical medicine and parasitology is no exception. It is written by two physicians from the faculty of Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine, one of the outstanding British schools in this field.

This atlas is effective because it limits itself to photographs and tables, nearly all of which are extremely valuable, but anyone expecting to find a textbook, such as Raul Marcial's monumental work on the pathology of protozoal and helminthic diseases, will be disappointed. There are in fact 656 color and 59 black and white photographs as well as 15 tables. The acknowledgments of the source-institutions and photographers indicate a tremendous variety of geographic and institutional distribution. Most of the color photographs are excellent, but as might be expected with any compilation from so many sources, a few of them are not particularly outstanding, to state it charitably. For example, the photograph of Calabar swellings shows a considerable area of face and trunk without emphasizing the knuckle lesions where the swellings are located. There is also, for example, an almost monochrome photograph of a microsection of an onchocercal nodule. As stated previously, however, the charts, tables, and photographs, whether black and white or in color, are generally of very high quality. Particularly interesting to pathologists and workers in the fields of forensic science are the clinical photographs. These effectively serve to correlate the parasitologic pictures with the actual patient in the flesh, so to speak.

A rather interesting preface presents a philosophical discussion of poor nutrition and its role in explaining the prevalence of parasites in countries of what the authors delicately classify as "the Third World." There is no question that nutrition plays a role, but one cannot help but notice that the American people are notoriously malnourished, whether undernourished or overnourished. One cannot state flatly, to put it obliquely, that parasites are a major problem in the U.S.A.

The authors are to be congratulated on their restraint in using relatively well accepted terminology. The British term *Bilharzia* for *Schistosoma* does not even appear in the index. With this same genius for simplicity, the two essayists lump the free-living amoebae under the general term of *Limax* amoebae to include, of course, *Naegleria* and its relatives, including *Vahlkampfiidae*. The book is scarcely the place for a debate on *Hartmannella*

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versus *Acanthameba* or for minutiae of the morphology of *Tetramitus* and others. Some of the illustrations or photographs are by Norman Ashton, the world-famous ophthalmic pathologist of London, who happens to be just about one of the best artists in the world.

A rather unusual bonus is the inclusion of a special directory of useful addresses in the United Kingdom, which appears at the back of the book. This permits medical parasitologists to follow their major interests through correspondence. Also valuable is an excellent reference section, including, of course, Marcial-Rojas' classic work and other interesting texts such as George Edington and H. M. Gilles' excellent *Pathology in the Tropics*. Gilles is one of the co-authors of the *Color Atlas*.

Although the book is written by two physicians and it is very definitely of clinical interest, it is bound to be extremely valuable to paramedical and non-physician workers. The captions are being translated into Spanish and the photographs constitute in themselves a universal language.

This book has a definite place in the library and on the desk of everyone interested in tropical medicine and medical parasitology.