The coverage of each important phase of development from the problems of quarantine in the early 18th century to the 3rd World Health Assembly in 1950, the generous use of appendices that provide relevant details from important basic documents and records and the extensive system of references make this book highly valuable to any student of international health whether he be engaged in academic pursuit of some aspect of this field or actively engaged in it as a health worker or statesman. It would serve admirably as a text book for the teaching of this subject at the university level. Indeed, it is so well written and the subject matter so clearly presented that it should prove of equal value to nonprofessional people who are interested in this important aspect of international cooperation.

The treatment of the developments of the past three decades is especially complete and draws from the author’s own experiences in such activities as those of the International Office of Public Health, the Health Committee of the League of Nations, and more recently in the World Health Organization. Not only does he trace, and make comprehensible, the evolution and role of these and other major organizations but he also accomplishes the difficult task of clarifying the relationships among them and between them and other international agencies that are in the health field or in fields related to it.

Edward S. Rogers


The second edition of this book should be as generally well received as was the first edition. It is a valuable text for medical students and reference book for physicians and others interested in parasites of man. However, despite the misleading title “Clinical Parasitology” it is not a clinical text. In common with other books with the same or similar titles, it features the morphology and biology of the protozoa, helminths, and arthropods which infect and infest man. That coverage is, however, rather better presented for the student than is the case with a number of other books in the field. The numerous illustrations set this book apart from most other texts. They have been selected to illustrate salient points and are well executed; the labeling of these illustrations is excellent and alone puts the book in a unique position in the field. Oversimplification and minor errors in such illustrations do not detract from their significant value.

The numerous tabulations in the introductory chapters (pp. 1—62) are useful but inevitably are misleading. For example in table 3 (pp. 10—11), titled “Principal Hosts...”, to list man as the first of a series of definitive hosts for Balantidium coli, Trypanosoma cruzi, Trichinella spiralis, Dipylidium caninum, Hymenolepis nana, Fasciola hepatica, and Opisthorchis felineus and as the first of the intermediate hosts of Echinococcus granulosus can stem only from anthropological egotism or ignorance of the true occurrence of these parasites and misleads the uninformed reader. To include man as a definitive host of Ancylostoma braziliense is debatable to put it conservatively. Similarly other such summary tables are misleading if taken without reference to the detailed discussions. Nevertheless the tables are useful and little harm is done to the reader whose interest is more than casual.

A book bearing in the title the term ‘Clinical’ would be expected to contain a critical comparison of clinical manifestations and adjunct clinical laboratory procedures as an aid to differential diagnosis. These are notably lacking for the obvious reason that they are difficult if not impossible tasks with infections which are often subclinical. Perhaps the solution would be to change the misleading name in subsequent editions.

Epidemiology is as conspicuously inadequate in this book as in other texts in medical parasitology but perhaps is not required.

Despite the criticisms the book is well written, instructive, and well set up by author and publishers. It is the reviewer’s choice for classroom use.

Gilbert F. Otto