



BOOK REVIEW

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AN APPEAL

In June, 1976, a Joint FAO/UNEP/WHO Consultation of experts was held in Nairobi, Kenya, covering all aspects of problems relating to *Taeniasis/Cysticercosis* and *Echinococcus/Hydatidosis*. The special purpose of this Consultation was to formulate practical recommendations for an integrated, multidisciplinary, innovative, environmental approach to research, leading towards better understanding and the planning of successful control of the two parasitic zoonoses. The resulting "Report of the Joint FAO/UNEP/WHO Consultation on Field Control of *Taeniasis* and *Echinococcus*" is available, free of charge, to all interested parties.

Anyone engaged in any capacity on work on these conditions—whether the approach be administrative, laboratory, epidemiological, environmental or socio-economic—is cordially invited to communicate with the undersigned. The objective of this contact would be to establish links and to contribute to an urgently needed breakthrough in these challenging problems. *Cysticercosis* today is not only a serious impediment to the development of sound livestock industry in developing countries, but is spreading to developed countries due to tourist traffic, migrant labour forces, and the influx of students as well as the unreliability of the standard sewer treatment, thereby posing a serious threat to well-established livestock industries throughout the world. *Hydatidosis* is still rampant in many parts of the globe. An urgent need exists for refining diagnostic procedures and the development of non-surgical means of prevention and/or treatment in humans. Similarly, the prevention of animal *hydatidosis*, which leads toward heavy losses of badly needed protein, requires urgent action.

A Reference Library is being established, the principal aim of which is to serve the needs of those confronted with the problems of *Taeniasis/Cysticercosis* and *Echinococcus/Hydatidosis* in developing countries. As a contribution to the Reference Library, any relevant material, whether statistical data, scientific reports, published or unpublished, would be gratefully received and would be of great value.

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BOOK REVIEW

"POULTRY DISEASES". Edited by R. F. Gordon.

Baillière Tindall, London, 1977. ISBN 07 020 06025

Price in Great Britain £9.00. Published in the United States by
Lea and Febiger. 870 pages.

This book which comprises 17 chapters and 4 appendices deals primarily with the diseases of domestic poultry. The first four chapters cover those conditions associated with micro-organisms and parasites, and the subsequent four with nutritional and skeletal disorders, diseases of unknown aetiology and constitutional disturbances. A chapter apiece is devoted to the turkey and the duck and six chapters

to such topics as field investigations, hatchery hygiene, SPF poultry and poultry meat hygiene. The authors include many of international standing in the poultry field and this expertise is apparent in the text which, while of high scientific quality, is clearly written and easy to read.

There are 50 figures and 2 sets of colour plates. The former are primarily black and white photographs, of which the reproduction is sometimes rather disappointing. The coloured plates mainly depict pathologic and parasitologic conditions; they are a welcome addition to the book but in certain cases are duplicated by black and white pictures (e.g. liver lesions of histomoniasis), while some are difficult to interpret in the absence of comprehensive legend or arrowing.

This book will prove of interest to veterinarians, wildlife biologists, zoo personnel and others concerned with diseases of wild birds, whether captive or free-living. Chapter 11, by I. F. Keymer, deals with "Diseases of Birds other than Domestic Poultry" and specifically covers the avian Orders Psittaciformes, Columbiformes, Falconiformes, Strigiformes, Passeriformes, Galliformes and Anseriformes. Other Orders are discussed briefly in three pages of text; they include species as diverse as kiwis and humming birds.

Chapter 16 consists of 27 pages and, inevitably, deals only briefly with the various conditions. Nevertheless, it is a most useful addition to the book. Dr. Keymer very wisely devotes a little over a page to an Introduction in which he discusses the many non-domesticated birds kept in captivity. His approach to the diverse species with which he has to deal is based upon their taxonomic classification — a system which renders the chapter of zoological, as well as veterinary, value. Inevitably, however, there are some points over which other avian pathologists would not agree. In his discussion of protozoan infections in birds of prey he rather dogmatically states that "there is no proof" that coccidia can be pathogenic in these species, ignoring diagnoses made (and reported) by other workers in the field. Many would argue that there is more scientific evidence for coccidiosis (albeit rare) in such birds than vitamin B deficiency, which is stated categorically to occur. In the same section bumblefoot is erroneously attributed to "perches which are too slender" when in fact it is usually self-inflicted wounds of the sole that predispose to this infection. There are some typographical errors in this chapter, but these and other faults are outweighed by the scientific content of the text. The list of "Further reading" is useful but could have been expanded to advantage. At the end of this and several other chapters space is available for many more references to books and journals.

This book will serve as a useful guide for those who, in addition to poultry work, deal with wild birds and may require concise information on the more important diseases affecting them. It will prove particularly helpful to the practising veterinarian with clients who are aviculturists and the avian pathologist who, from time to time, is asked to perform post-mortem examinations on non-domesticated species. Other chapters in the book will also be of interest to those working with captive wild birds; such topics as laboratory procedures, disinfection and artificial insemination are often as relevant to them as to domestic poultry. The Appendices dealing with Acts and Orders and Codes of Practice will not be pertinent to the reader in North America, but his counterpart in Britain will find them a useful practical guide to legislation which often influences "exotic" avian species as well as poultry.

J. E. Cooper