Book Reviews

DIAGNOSTIC PATHOLOGY OF PARASITIC INFECTIONS WITH CLINICAL CORRELATIONS. By Yezid Gutierrez. Philadelphia, PA, Lea and Febiger, 1990. 532 pp. $75.00.

The current revolution in molecular parasitology often makes us forget about the subtleties of host-parasite ecology, i.e., how the whole parasite interacts with its vertebrate host. Dr. Gutierrez’s book reminds us of what we are missing. Its pages represent a scholar’s lifetime of devotion to the disease processes caused by the helminths, protozoa, and arthropods that infect man. Although written for the histopathologist and designed to serve as a diagnostic aid for identifying a parasite in tissue section, the book goes beyond its original purpose. Dr. Gutierrez includes details regarding life cycles and unusual pathophysiological mechanisms, providing the reader with a thorough understanding of the organism and its associated disease process.

The chapters on helminths, especially nematodes, are particularly good. It is unusual to find thorough discussions of some of the less common species such as *Oesophagostomum* spp. and *Angiostrongylus* spp. Unusual sequelae of common parasitic infections are also given excellent treatment. One seldom finds mention elsewhere of *Ancylostoma* hookworm infection, for example, in association with eosinophilic myositis and vertical transmission. Chapters are well referenced with excellent bibliographies.

The chapters on protozoan parasites are also of high quality, with important sections on opportunistic pathogens in AIDS, e.g., *Cryptosporidium, Microsporidium,* and *Pneumocystis carinii.* References include items as recent as last year.

The quality of the photographs is generally good. Only black and white plates are used; color photographs would be preferable, but the price of such an undertaking would place the book out of the range of most physicians and scientists. Although targeted for the anatomic pathologist, this book will also be a useful reference for the research scientist and graduate student who need a better clinical foundation in parasitology.

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TOWARD A NEW PHILOSOPHY OF BIOLOGY: OBSERVATIONS OF AN EVOLUTIONIST. By Ernst Mayr. Cambridge, MA, The Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, 1988. 564 pp. $14.95.

*Toward a New Philosophy of Biology: Observations of an Evolutionist* is a provocative new book by Harvard Professor Emeritus of Zoology Ernst Mayr. It is an examination of the concept of biological evolution from the critical perspective of historian, philosopher, and biologist, which Mayr has masterfully synthesized throughout the book. The volume is a collection of 28 essays, covering topics of the philosophy of science, natural selection, Darwinism, diversity, species, speciation, macroevolution, and historical perspective.
The first section begins with an historical and philosophical account of scientific theory; it discusses the difficulties encountered in establishing biology as a separate entity, apart from the determinist perspective of the classical physical sciences. Mayr eloquently argues against the notion of reducing organisms to the physical-chemical principles of classical science. According to Mayr, organisms simply cannot be placed into the conceptual framework of deterministic laws. Instead, biological theories can only be probabilistic; exceptions will exist. Yet Mayr believes that this is entirely acceptable and presents it so candidly and eloquently that one wonders why such controversy still continues.

Mayr's ability to clarify even the most perplexing concepts of evolutionary theory, presenting each argument with wit and cogency, make this enjoyable reading for both the casual reader and the ardent evolutionist. He discusses all aspects of the evolutionary debate, from his strong affirmation of Darwinism, his treatises on natural selection, adaptation, and speciation, to his criticism of neo-Darwinists. The final chapter offers an excellent critique of the development and modification of Darwinism, bringing together all aspects of the evolutionary debate.

This is a truly exciting book, remarkable not only for the candor with which it details a complex and controversial field of science, but for the provocative ideas it inspires in each essay. Those with even a mild curiosity about evolution are encouraged to read this book.

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CONSULTATION IN INTERNAL MEDICINE. Edited by John T. Harrington. Philadelphia, PA, B.C. Decker, 1990. 632 pp. No price. Paperbound.

Jerome P. Kassirer, M.D., has organized a new series of texts that approach medical subjects from the consultant's viewpoint. In addition to internal medicine, the other specialties covered in the Medical Consultation Series are neurology, ophthalmology, general surgery, diagnostic imaging, and chest medicine. John T. Harrington edits this volume, and all of the other contributors currently hold or have held appointments at the New England Medical Center or Tufts University School of Medicine.

Concerned with the lack of formal consultation training in medical schools and in internal medicine residency programs, the authors of this text provide a systematic approach to more than 90 percent of the medical problems for which they are consulted. They hope that this text will be useful to the young internist or surgeon faced with these problems. Each chapter is ten to fifteen pages long and provides a discussion of the approach to a specific physical finding, such as, "The Systolic Murmur," "Postoperative Fever," "Splenomegaly," or a "Solitary Pulmonary Nodule."

This is not a textbook of differential diagnoses, but rather a discussion of the salient points of each topic and specific recommendations for the workup and care of a patient with a specific disease. It reduces what more comprehensive texts would present in a paragraph or two down to a sentence or two. This approach makes it a good source for those seeking a concise discussion, such as a medical student preparing a report or a