

message of its final chapter, then maybe appropriate technology will succeed where traditional vertical programmes of vector control have failed.

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Human Toxoplasmosis. DARREL O. HO-YEN, ALEX W. L. JOSS, eds. Pp. 265.
Oxford University Press; 1992. £27.50.

Toxoplasmosis has featured prominently in the lay and scientific press over recent years, most notably in the continuing debate over the desirability of antenatal screening. The authors have detected a need for a detailed reference on the subject and produced a book to try and meet this demand. The work comprises a series of chapters considering different aspects of the parasite and related illness which include the history of the subject, clinical features, diagnosis and management as well as specific sections addressing infection of the immune suppressed and congenital toxoplasmosis. Each chapter ends with a concise summary and includes an extensive list of references.

All the authors are affiliated to a single institute, the Scottish Toxoplasma Reference Laboratory. This restricted input has produced a consistency of style and lack of repetition unusual in a multi-author text. The quality of the various chapters reflects the experience of the host unit; sections on diagnostics and pregnancy are detailed and comprehensive but consideration of infection in the immunocompromised is more superficial. Antenatal screening received a favourable review but the pertinent arguments against are presented.

Interestingly, a chapter on future developments predicts the development of an effective vaccine will remove the need for antenatal screening. The challenge of any work of this nature is to maintain clinical perspective in the face of a massive literature. This has been achieved in an admirable chapter on clinical features but in some sections the sheer mass of reported data may overwhelm all but the most committed reader.

Nonetheless, the book is the most complete account of toxoplasmosis available in a single text. It will be an invaluable source of information to medical practitioners and other staff dealing with toxoplasma infection.

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