The monograph ends with a repetition of the opening general claims concerning classification. In effect it suggests that *Bergey's Manual of Determinative Bacteriology* should be thrown out of the window, and that Kauffmann's propositions are those to follow in classification. The truth probably lies somewhere between these two extremes, with the additional use of new technologies.

E. S. ANDERSON

The color atlas of intestinal parasites

By F. M. SPENCER and L. S. MONROE. 1975. Revised 6th printing. Springfield, Illinois: Charles C. Thomas. Pp. xvii and 158. US \$14.75.

Although described as a colour atlas, this book contains five chapters of text in addition to an excellent collection of colour photomicrographs of parasitic forms seen in faeces. Written by clinicians with an obvious interest in laboratory medicine, the book draws attention to the growing importance of parasitic intestinal infections in non-tropical areas, and provides an up-to-date, authoritative and detailed guide to the laboratory diagnosis of these conditions. Methods used in the collection, preservation, fixation, staining and examination of specimens are fully described, and the currently available serological tests are reviewed and discussed.

Three chapters are devoted respectively to the intestinal protozoa, the intestinal helminths, and to confusing objects ("pseudoparasites") that might be found in faeces. Brief comments are made on the geographical distribution, pathogenicity, frequency and importance of each species of parasite, and, where appropriate, clinical and pathological features of the corresponding diseases are given. The stated aim of the authors is to provide an aid to diagnosis rather than a comprehensive textbook of parasitology, and no detailed descriptions are therefore given of adult helminths, life cycles or epidemiology, and only the intestinal parasites are considered.

Because diagnosis of the parasitic intestinal diseases depends so largely upon the ability of the microscopist to recognise and identify the many different structures that may be present in faeces in health or disease, it is important that any textbook illustrations that may be studied for comparison should clearly depict the true appearances of these structures as they are likely to be seen in clinical specimens. This requirement is amply fulfilled by the large collection of high quality photomicrographs in the colour atlas section of the book, and the authors may justifiably claim to have produced an extremely practical diagnostic manual for use in the clinical laboratory.

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