

BOOK REVIEW

Venereal Diseases, by King A, Nicol C and Rodin P, 4th edn. 1980, Published by M/s. Cassell Ltd., London pp. 419, Price £4.75.

It is authored by a seasoned team of British triumvirate of veteran Venereologists, pure in the full sense of the term, Ambrose King, Claude Nicol and P. Rodin, who each famed for his own singular and collective experiences extending beyond decades, have dexterously combined in the concept of V.D., a judicious blend of the old heritage with the new and latest developments in laboratory sciences.

On the basis of a long and sustained scrupulous study of the book, it is solemnly testified, without fear or favour, that "Venereal Diseases", is, by far the best treatise made available to the world, in recent times.

The presentation is elegant, lucid, concise and comprehensive. It contains appropriate illustrations on art paper and the print is pleasant reading. There are adequately interspersed easily understandable classifications of diseases, statistical charts, tables, diagrams and line drawings.

The text is well reinforced with relevant references confined, however, to only western literature, bordering on every facet of each one of the fourteen entities with the necessary lien on others also, that inevitably crop up in differential diagnosis of Venereal Diseases, such as Behcets' Syndrome, Queyrat's erythroplasia, etc.

The authors have laid down in most unmistakable simple directives the correct mode of conduct of live examinations of the sexes of different age groups, utilizing the urethroscope, too little used in India and the best permissible manner of performance of the laboratory and epidemiologic probing, not belittling the time tested conventional procedures, along with the recently innovated sophisticated expertise, in illustration of a few of which, are the following :

1. resort to fluorescent antibody staining to confirm *N. gonorrhoeae* and *T. pallidum* ;
2. isolation of Herpes Simplex Hominis virus in cell culture and identification of urea-plasma urealyticum in newly innovated culture media ; and
3. demonstration of specific immunoglobulins in cerebrospinal fluid of neuro syphilitic victims in preference to Lange's Gold Sol test ; and IgG, IgA, IgM in sera of L. G. V. Patients ; and performance of micro-immunofluorescence tests to distinguish L¹, L², L³ categories of the *Chlamydia trachomati* amongst the large series of them.

The Collaborators have not overlooked amidst detailing the scientific and technologic advances consummating in recently discovered culture media and electron microscopy, the significance of finding iron in the brain cells of General Paretics.

Discussing details underlying the diagnosis of the two main Venereal Diseases, Syphilis and Gonorrhoea and the three minor ones with other added entities, recently baptised as V. D. and initiated into the ever widening V. D. Constellation, under the *Nom de Plume*, *STD*, they have forcibly re-emphasised the importance of applying ourselves to *Venereologic Microbiology* which is sum total of Bacteriology, Parasitology and *Virology* and to applied *Venereologic Biochemistry* which latter, alas, has even to this day in certain areas, been relegated to oblivion.

Updating management and Control Programmes, pertinent to the fourteen Venereal Diseases, as of date, the authors have charted out their scheduled regimen for each one of them; and then have appended in quick succession results of experiences of colleagues from elsewhere, accruing from experimental drug trials and published in British Journals, (a few of the verdicts of which, regrettably, are conflicting) for Readers' judgement, without causing them perturbation; e.g., vide, antagonistic outcome of therapy of Granuloma Inguinale with Ampicillin.

The start (Preface) and the finish (Index) are persuasive and informative; and commendable.

Whoever aspires to rise sky high in the practice of the independent Speciality of Venereology that is fast tending to throw out tentacles into Psycho-Social Medicine, also already alluded to in this, shall have to gather the truth from every line-nay every word of the 419 paged English '*Venereal Diseases*', to attain, achieve and maintain proficiency, efficiency and sufficiency in the discipline, for utility tailored to Indian environs and circumstances.

Then alone will he/she be able to render needed relief to victims of V. D., particularly that large segment of ignoramuses comprising those that insensibly live camouflaged in the latent phase of V. D. and who therefore constitute a menace to mankind by virtue of the continued existence of inexhaustible female and male infectious reservoir, and social aphrodisiacs in parallel contributing inadvertently to peril, not only to themselves but in the ultimate analysis, to innocent others in society, at large, in the world.

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P. N. Rangiah, M.D.
Emeritus Professor of Venereology,
Madras Medical College,
Member WHO Expert Panel till May 1981