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Book Review - Diseases of Poultry

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BOOK REVIEW


This extensive work on poultry diseases edited by H. E. Biester and Louis DeVries is the only complete text and reference book on the subject written in the English language. It is also unique in the method used to assemble the material. Thirty-four men, all specialists in their respective fields, contributed to the writing of the book.

As is stated in the preface, it was decided to prepare a book of this character after the junior editor found that it was not feasible to publish a translation of the German text by van Heelsbergen.

Some of the basic sciences which must be understood before pathology can be presented are discussed in the first seven chapters. A very complete and accurate discussion of vitamins and nutrition is of interest since deficient rations are frequently predisposing factors in many diseases, and primary in others. Of the first seven chapters, the chapter on sanitation and hygiene may be criticised as being too general. This is particularly so for the practitioner, who may not find many suggestions which he can put into use.

The next portion of the book considers infectious diseases of poultry known in the United States. Some of the diseases discussed have been known for centuries while others are of more recent occurrence. To the student, the chapter on paratyphoid seems incomplete. It includes much valuable research and scientific data but a summary would do much to complete the chapter and help the student grasp its substance. The chapters on pullorum disease, the avian leukosis complex, and psitticosis and ornithosis are very well written and leave few questions in the reader’s mind for which there are answers at the present time.

Neoplastic diseases of the chicken are fully discussed and following this subject are several chapters on parasites of poultry. The first chapter on parasites discusses those which are found externally. The internal parasites, including nematodes, cestodes, trematodes, and protozoa, are reviewed in the succeeding chapters.

Excluding cauponizing, surgery is a branch of poultry practice in which little work is done except experimentally. This subject, however, is one of interest and the discussion includes anesthesia and other practical aspects of surgery besides those used in experimental work.

Diseases of turkeys are discussed in the concluding chapter. This material adds much toward completing the book and the author should be given credit for making it practical and useful information.

“Diseases of Poultry” is a technical book written for the veterinarian and research worker. It has the latest information on almost all diseases of poultry as is evidenced by the inclusion of the chapter on pneumonencephalitis. This disease was not seen in this country until 1940 and references include results of research published in 1943. Additions were made to other chapters after their first writing.

Following each chapter is an extensive list of references giving the reader access to more detailed information. Great care was taken in collecting and editing all references. The book is very well illustrated with diagrams, photographs, and photomicrographs.

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