

favors. One wonders whether this might have shed a more favorable light on science than he would wish.

Part IV is almost entirely devoted to climate change. Here Kessel finds his voice. The earlier parts of the book barely intrude on the exposition, apart from a few tenuous threads, as he develops the thesis. Utilitarianism comes in for special criticism as the current bankrupt ethical basis for much environmental policy. Global climate change presents serious challenges to utilitarianism: policies of developed countries are adversely affecting developing countries, the spatial scale of impacts is global, and future generations may be more affected than current ones. The favored alternative ethical foundation is one based on fairness and justice, as presented in the writings of John Rawls. In this discussion, the reader may get the uneasy impression that Kessel, as even he himself fears, is making climate change a forum for “expressing dissatisfaction with the perceived reasons for many of the world’s ills.” In this light, the rhetoric used to present the solution to preventing climate change and its public health impacts as one requiring a “redistribution of wealth” becomes perhaps more understandable. If all this (a new relationship with the environment and redistribution of wealth) is required to prevent the dire consequences of climate change, then I suspect we are in for a very bad time.

A few other issues here deserve comment. Kessel confuses the reader (perhaps deliberately) when he repeatedly attributes climate change solely to the increase in anthropogenic (man-made) greenhouse gases. He was more on the mark when he ascribed a more limited role to anthropogenic pollution in contributing to climate change—a role that essentially, and most likely, “distorted a natural effect.” He also displays an excessive tendency to classification and definition, much like Aristotle (about whom Kessel appears to have mixed feelings), but that might be forgiven in a book that covers such a broad range of topics over a relatively few pages.

The concluding section of the book ends with a whimper, which is a strategically suspect approach to ending a book. I expected final recommendations for preventing environmental devastation and attenuating global warming and its likely negative impact on global public health. Instead we get recommendations on changes to public health *education*. These are recommenda-

tions that are not likely to bring new recruits to the battle against air pollution and climate change, although these could be influenced in an evolutionary manner by the recommendations. As an aside, readers who are familiar with public health education in the United States may protest the assertion that public health schools in the United States aim more at training those who work in federal or international agencies, rather than at the state or local level.

Air, the Environment, and Public Health covers a large amount of territory, but does not always tie it all together. The attempt to provide both a philosophical basis for policies to combat climate change and its effects, as well as practical advice on public health training, is perhaps too ambitious for this relatively slim volume. Nevertheless, I learned a fair amount in reading this book, despite the critical tenor of many of my comments. Kessel successfully engages the reader in the important debate on air pollution and global warming, and expands the boundaries of the debate to include some of the philosophical bases of Western civilization. And that is not a mean feat. I suspect that it will be only the rare reader of *RESPIRATORY CARE* who will find these to be compelling topics. But I could be surprised.

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Tropical Lung Disease, 2nd edition. Om P Sharma, editor. *Lung Biology in Health and Disease*, volume 211, Claude Lenfant, executive editor. Boca Raton: Taylor & Francis. 2006. Hard cover, illustrated, 541 pages, \$198.95.

The tropics is the geographical region of the Earth centered on the equator and limited by the Tropic of Cancer on the north

and the Tropic of Capricorn on the south. Tropical diseases are unique because of the hot climate present all year round. Large volumes of rain each year impact the formation of breeding grounds, the number and variety of animal diseases that can be transmitted to humans, and insect disease vectors. Socioeconomic factors also impact heavily on the epidemiology of tropical diseases, since most of the poorest nations are located within the tropics.

This book is timely; it reminds us that although these diseases are mostly seen in the tropics, they can have a worldwide impact because of the increased mobility of people and animals, as evidenced by the recent severe acute respiratory syndrome epidemic and the spread of avian influenza. In addition, weather and climate changes will impact the geography of tropical lung diseases, making this topic less exotic and more relevant than ever.

This book is divided into 3 main parts: an approach to tropical lung disease diagnosis (Chapters 1–5), common presentations of tropical lung disease (Chapters 6–9), and discussions on specific tropical diseases that affect the lung (Chapters 10–22).

The introductory chapters provide a good overview to the spectrum of tropical lung diseases and a useful clinical algorithm for approaching patients with these diseases. These chapters would be of interest to readers who are unfamiliar with tropical diseases, in that they provide a “bird’s eye view” of what medical conditions they might encounter when they travel to the tropics or consult on a patient who has recently returned from the tropics. Chapter 2 includes a detailed list of diseases by geographic distribution, which will be a useful quick reference guide for physicians. However, there was no mention that malaria is commonly encountered in many parts of South and Southeast Asia, which is an important point. The discussion of the role of diagnostic bronchoscopy in the diagnosis of tropical lung disease will be useful, especially to pulmonologists. A welcome addition to this chapter would have been information on infection-control practices, such as patient isolation, use of contact precaution, and use of the powered air purifying respirator, since many tropical diseases are infectious. Chapter 4, on lung immunology, provides an up-to-date summary of host defense mechanisms in the lung and is well-presented, since the topic is vast and new findings are published regularly. This chapter will be a good

starting point for physicians and students with a keen interest in lung immunology, although the reading might be heavy for those unfamiliar with the topic.

The second part of the book focuses on the differential diagnosis of common presentations of tropical lung disease: community acquired pneumonias, pleural effusions, granulomatous conditions, and eosinophilic lung diseases. There are useful discussions on the immunological basis of disease and the approach and differential diagnoses that should be entertained. Certain chapters suffer from a lack of illustrations, focusing instead on textural descriptions of life cycles, which can be hard to follow.

The third part of the book focuses on specific tropical organisms that affect the lung, as well as noninfectious lung conditions encountered in the tropics.

Chapters 10–15 discuss specific parasitic lung diseases: malaria, entamoeba, paragonimiasis, echinococcus, and schistosomiasis. The chapters on malaria discuss the immunopathogenesis of disease in malaria and severe malaria, as well as the development of immunity to malaria. Physicians unfamiliar with malaria should read these chapters: the pathophysiology, diagnosis, and treatment of malaria are well presented. The tables and charts give a good overall view on the critical care aspects of treating malaria and serve as a quick reference on specific management issues. The chapters on entamoeba, paragonimiasis, and schistosomiasis are well written and include illustrations of the life cycle of the inciting parasite and how humans can become infected. The included chest radiographs and case studies help illustrate the disease.

The discussions on familial Mediterranean fever, Behçet's disease, sickle cell disease, and diffuse panbronchiolitis summarize the common clinical presentations and the latest research results. In most chapters, radiographs are appropriately used to show the anatomical abnormalities. More diagrams and radiographs could have been used, however, to illustrate the pathophysiology and immunology aspects of sickle cell disease's effects on the lung. The reading would be easier if the clinical presentation was discussed after the pathophysiology and immune alterations in the chapter on Behçet's disease. In addition, the authors used the older terminology of "bronchiolitis obliterans organizing pneumonia" instead of "organizing pneumonia," which is the currently accepted term. Otherwise, adequate reference was made to relevant publications, and the authors put forward a clear and concise picture of this disease.

Chapters 18 and 19 discuss 2 important infections that occur in the tropics: endemic mycosis and leptospirosis. The chapter on endemic mycosis must have been difficult to write, as the authors had to limit their scope of discussion to what is considered endemic, depending on the locality concerned. The authors chose the 3 fungi most common in North America, and paracoccidioidomycosis, which is endemic in Central and South America. The main emphasis was on clinical presentation and diagnosis, but the radiographs chosen could have been better. The authors focused mainly on the pulmonary aspect of leptospiral disease, with some mention of other systemic involvement of leptospirosis. However, 4 tables on Brazilian leptospirosis statistics were shown, which were probably unnecessary and not

representative of world statistics. Again, the quality of the radiographs could have been better.

The last chapter reviews treatment of tuberculosis in the tropics and highlights the problem of the high burden of tuberculosis and human immunodeficiency virus in these regions, which is often fraught with limited resources. Clinicians and health administrators would find this timely contribution particularly useful and relevant to their practice. We would have liked to see greater use of summary tables for the details, facts, and treatment recommendations on tuberculosis, which instead were presented in a narrative fashion that does not make for easy reading and quick reference.

We highly recommended this book, both as a reference and as a quick guide to tropical lung disease for students, respiratory therapists, nurses, and physicians. Given the broad spectrum of diseases covered, the authors avoided the pitfall of providing too many details on each topic, which could make the reading tedious. The up-to-date references facilitate further in-depth reading into each topic. Although some chapters lack accompanying illustrations and summary tables, this book remains an excellent and well-written text.

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