

TUBERCULOSIS

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Professor VLADIMIR L. EINIS

TUBERCULOSIS

*Clinical Aspects,
Prevention and Treatment*



PEACE PUBLISHERS
MOSCOW

Проф. В. Эйниг
ТУБЕРКУЛЕЗ

Клиника, профилактика и лечение

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FOREWORD

The control of tuberculosis has entered a new stage. Highly effective means of prevention and therapy have become widely available, which is especially true under the Public Health system in the Soviet Union. There are now real possibilities for the total eradication of tuberculosis in the U.S.S.R.

The present book contains a summary of modern knowledge on the clinical aspects and prevention of pulmonary and extrapulmonary tuberculosis and an outline of the latest developments in its therapy.

In a brief textbook, it is impossible and virtually unnecessary to present the detailed knowledge essential to specialists whose needs are amply met by other manuals and handbooks. The author's sole object is to assist the medical student and young physician in grasping the fundamentals of measures against tuberculosis and to explain how it can be prevented and successfully treated.

In almost 90 per cent of cases tuberculosis affects the lungs, such patients being the most dangerous source of infection for other people. Hence, the major part of the textbook is devoted to pulmonary tuberculosis. But as tuberculosis is a general disease of the human body, an understanding of its clinical features requires a knowledge of the tuberculous lesions afflicting other organs. Accordingly, the chapters on pathogenesis and clinical aspects include general information on skeletal and other localisations of the tuberculous process. However, within the confines of a brief textbook, we find it impracticable to deal with bone-and-joint tuberculosis, which is taught at the surgical departments of medical institutes and requires special knowledge of orthopedics and surgery.

V. Einis

INTRODUCTION

HISTORY OF RESEARCH

Tuberculosis has been known for thousands of years. In the words of the French medical historians A. Piéry and J. Roshem, it is as old as man himself. Thus, the earliest archeological discoveries of tuberculosis-like spinal lesions date back to the Stone Age. Vivid descriptions of the symptoms of "lung consumption" were left by the ancient Indians and Egyptians. The Indians held it to be an "evil" disease (Manu's law), while the ancient Egyptians, according to Isocrates, had already devised preventive measures and were long considered the most healthy and robust of nations. Hippocrates (Cos school, 460-400 B.C.) was acquainted with pictures of "lung consumption" and attempted to treat the disease. The physicians of ancient Greece treated consumption in its chronic and acute forms, prescribing specific hygienic measures and regular diet, etc. The ancient Chinese were also familiar with tuberculosis and its symptoms, a description of which may be found in Chinese medical manuscripts, such as the treatise on medicine by Wang Shu-huo (6th century B.C.). Avicenna (Abu-ibn-Sina) in his *Canon of Medical Science* gives an interesting account of the heredity of consumption, the frequency of hemoptysis in spring, consumption in pregnancy, etc. The famous scientist also dealt with the effects of environment, climate and weather on the course of the disease.

Conjectures as to the infective nature of tuberculosis were advanced more or less definitely in the middle of the sixteenth century. Almost three centuries before Pasteur and Koch, Geronimo Fracastoro (1483-1553) of Verona persistently referred to its contagiousness. This view was gradually accepted by physicians, although there were some who denied it even in the eighteenth century.

The first mention of tuberculosis in Russia occurred in the fourteenth century, when the disease was called "malignant tabes" and "intractable ulcer".

During the Renaissance, in the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries, emphasis was placed on hygienic and dietary principles of treatment and climate therapy, although the current views on the disease proper were still rather rudimentary. Some very interesting data were recently found by M. L. Goldfarb and A. V. Prussak in mid-seventeenth