

beginning with foundational concepts, such as clinical syndromes, followed by specifics, such as the clinical presentation and treatment of individual pathogens. No such analogous structure is apparent in this book. Although the book begins with a discussion of genetics and the hygiene hypothesis, it quickly digresses into issues less relevant to the main point of the book, such as new diagnostic tests. A clear structure would also help ensure that all major topics are included. For example, many respiratory tract infections have a bimodal age distribution with the greatest incidence in the very young and the very old. However, this book largely omits any discussion of host-microbe interactions among the elderly. Similarly absent is a description of how pandemic influenza viruses emerge and evade the host immune system. Simply put, structure would unify what could otherwise be considered a series of well-done monographs.

Most readers who want to understand the host-agent interplay in respiratory infections might find that a general infectious disease text meets their needs. However, others who need more depth in selected topics should search the table of contents before adding this book to their library.

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## Infections of Leisure, 3rd ed.

**David Schlossberg, editor**

**ASM Press, Washington, DC, 2004**

**ISBN: 1-55581-299-6**

**Pages: 444; Price: US \$59.95**

If you have ever thought about spending more time away from work, here is a book that could help change your mind. *Infections of Leisure* provides a detailed survey of the infective hazards associated with a wide range of human leisure activities and pursuits, from lazing on a beach to relaxing in a spa, dining out, or simply staying home and doing the gardening.

Now in its third edition, this book covers infections linked to salt and freshwater activities, camping and the outdoors, gardening, contact with animals, eating, foreign travel, sports, sexually transmitted diseases, body piercing, tattooing, and trekking to high altitude. The menu of topics is somewhat eclectic, and the balance between them is sometimes uneven, e.g., 30 pages on diseases associated with “Man’s Worst Friend” (the rat), but only 20 pages on overseas travel. The result is nonetheless fascinatingly readable, even for the armchair practitioner.

On the subject of rats, I was intrigued to discover that 40,000 human rat bites are reported annually, and that *Rattenbisskrankheit*, or rat-bite fever in its various forms, has been noted clinically for >2,000 years. Bacterial zoonoses from domestic pets include salmonellosis from illegally kept turtles (i.e., those

measuring <4 inches long). Both of these conditions have been the subject of recent case reports in the MMWR (1,2), confirming the continuing topicality of the book’s contents.

There is much to whet the appetite of any connoisseur of bizarrely named syndromes, from “toxic sock” syndrome (pitted keratolysis caused by *Corynebacterium* in athletes) to “hot-foot” syndrome (plantar *Pseudomonas* folliculitis associated with abrasive swimming pool floors). But anyone looking for up-to-date information about more common conditions, from leptospirosis to Lyme disease, will find plenty of clear, concise, well-referenced material, contributed by experts in each field.

Leisure is a precious commodity, and this book remains a useful resource for anyone interested in knowing more about the pathogens that conspire against our pursuit of it, from the mundane to the truly outlandish.

**Richard Dawood\***

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### References

1. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Fatal rat-bite fever—Florida and Wisconsin, 2003. MMWR Morb Mortal Wkly Rep. 2005;53:1198–202.
2. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Salmonellosis associated with pet turtles—Wisconsin and Wyoming, 2004. MMWR Morb Mortal Wkly Rep. 2005;54:223–6.

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### Instructions for Infectious Disease Authors

#### Book Reviews

Short reviews (250–500 words) of recently published books on emerging disease issues are welcome. The name of the book, publisher, and number of pages should be included.

