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[An Illustrated Laboratory Manual of Parasitology.](#)

Author(s) : [CABLE, R. M.](#)

Book : [An Illustrated Laboratory Manual of Parasitology.](#) 1950 No.Revised Edition
pp.

Abstract : The first edition of this manual appeared ten years ago, at a time when parasitology courses in parasitology were offered in only a few colleges and universities in the United States, and when the medical schools, with a few exceptions, treated this subject as of minor importance. Then came the war and with it the rapid realization that parasitology, particularly in its relation to tropical medicine, was an essential part of the training of a medical officer, and that the teaching of this subject must be ur-

wider and more extensive scale in the medical colleges throughout the United States. The war-time demand was successfully met, not only by augmenting the staff of teachers in the medical schools, but also by the revision of old textbooks or by the writing of new ones, while the supply of live and preserved material for teaching purposes was vastly increased, largely by the help of commercial firms. "As a result," so writes Dr. Cable, "the premedical student has been removed from the conscience of the college teacher of parasitology, especially since the present trend is toward general education and medical educators advise their future students to get broad, cultural training in college and avoid courses that would be repeated in medical school. So strongly is this being emphasized at present that the college teachers indeed feel a bit uncomfortable should a premedical student, either misguided or downright interested in the subject and haunted by the possibility of failing to gain admission to medical school, elect the course in parasitology. Nevertheless, the importance given to the subject by war-time experience has been felt down to the college level, and as a result, parasitology is now taught in scores of small colleges as well as practical universities in the United States."

It would appear from this statement that Professor Cable's book is intended for American undergraduates interested in general biology, and not necessarily for those pursuing a medical or veterinary career. This avoidance of medical or veterinary employment explains why, although many arthropod-borne parasites of man and his domestic animals are adequately described in one section and their vectors in another, no definite connection is made by the author to connect these isolated descriptions or to build up a picture of the disease they combine to produce. It also explains why, when it suits his purpose, the author does not hesitate to describe the anatomy, or stages in the life-cycle of a parasite which, although admirably adapted to illustrate the points to be emphasized, is not common in man or his domestic stock, and which, in consequence, are not usually referred to in text-books on these subjects.

As a text-book intended for the use of pre-medical students the volume unquestionably seems admirably adapted for its purpose. The author seldom attempts to cover too much ground and his accounts of the various parasites are well written, presented in an interesting manner, and, with a few exceptions, the illustrations are accurately and artistically produced. The reviewer, however, would make the following suggestions for corrections or additions for inclusion in future editions: (a) the drawing of the oesophagus in the filariform stage of the larva of *N. americanus* is misleading and should be corrected; (b) the statement regarding the presence of a "granular mass" which is difficult to see in stained material in the microfilaria of *W. bancrofti* is not supported by many authorities and might well be omitted, while the inclusion of a drawing of the granules would save much verbal description. In the section dealing with arthropods the section on the life-cycle of mites belonging to the genus *Trombicula* should be included. The section

technique is excellent and full of sound advice-how well we know those ear replete with slides of overstained amebae, faded blood smears, opaque ne crippled arthropods, and deep, deep red flukes ". Amidst so much that is g disappointing to find so poor an account of the staining of thick blood films, reference is made to the value of polyvinyl alcohol as a mountant for certain arthropods. In the list of selected books Professor Cable has included " VAN 1876. *Animal Parasites and Messmates*. Appleton ", cheek by jowl with the s moderns. The reviewer applauds the inclusion and would like to see LANKE translation (1857) of KÜCHENMEISTER'S " *Animal and Vegetable Parasites of Body* " added for good company. *R.M.Gordon*.

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