philosophy, and dependence on multiple disciplines.

The book’s introduction and first chapter alone would provide a fine primer to begin the exploration of “what makes a population get healthier?” After this concise and clear context of eradication and its pursuit (eradicationism), the text then focuses specifically on eradication efforts and some key disease eradicators. Particular emphasis is given to a major 20th century public health leader and proponent of disease eradication, Fred Lowe Soper, and his role with the Rockefeller Foundation, his successful efforts in Brazil and other countries, and his global influence as director of the Pan American Health Organization. He targeted yellow fever and malaria, primarily through vector control (mosquito eradication), and became a champion for use of DDT. Stepan uses the colorful and compelling personality and strengths of Soper, the political complexities of international work, and the unforeseen conflict of insecticidal vector control with the advent of environmentalism to illustrate the considerable hurdles involved in any program of disease eradication, no matter how initially successful and promising. She continues with detailed examples of the successful program of smallpox eradication.

After a description of the guinea worm eradication program, which has made extraordinary progress, the book seems to end a bit abruptly. Only a handful of pages are devoted to the world’s major current disease eradication program, polio, and there is little mention of measles. The book relies for information and opinion on distinguished leaders in eradication efforts, but almost all of them are American or live in the United States. Are European views different? What about having more insights from public health figures in the involved nations in Africa, southern Asia, and South America? The result feels somewhat parochial and incomplete.

Nevertheless, this book provides an interesting and useful perspective on a major public health movement and is suitable for students beginning their public health studies as well as for their professors of epidemiology and public policy. Veterans of eradication efforts will enjoy reading it. Those currently involved in eradication campaigns and those considering joining them would be wise to read this book and absorb its lessons.

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Infectious Disease: A Geographic Guide and Atlas of Human Infectious Diseases

Esckild Petersen, Lin H. Chen, and Patricia Schlagenhauf, editors

ISBN: 978-0-470-65529-0
Pages: 480; Price: US $84.95

Heiman F.L. Wertheim, Peter Horby, and John P. Woodall, editors

ISBN: 978-1-4051-8440-3
Pages: 306; Price: US $130.00

Infectious Disease: A Geographic Guide and Atlas of Human Infectious Diseases, 2 books recently published by Wiley-Blackwell, deliver to the global medicine bookshelf diagnostic adjuncts for expatriate clinicians and those who see immigrants or returning travelers, while also serving as pretravel references on regional disease risk and authoritative sources for anyone needing infectious diseases information. Mary Wilson, who contributed to the first book and wrote the foreword for the second, filled a similar need in 1991 with A World Guide to Infections. Now these new books remind us that even in the age of near–real-time, electronic references, a printed volume to hold in one’s hands can be an unmatched resource.

Infectious Disease: A Geographic Guide, edited by Esckild Petersen, Lin Chen, and Patricia Schlagenhauf, uses United Nations regions as an organizational basis, which achieves the objective of maintaining relevance with respect to by-country travel while reflecting the fact that pathogens do not recognize political borders. The regions are still country groupings, but the way this book cuts up the world integrates how transmission varies by topography, geoclimatic factors, and the fauna that include pertinent disease reservoirs and vectors. Well-written chapters also review background regional histories, evolving global disease patterns, and the impacts of migration, climate change, and public health interventions. Extensively published physicians who have experience in geographic medicine contributed to all of the book’s clinical content. Fifteen of the 22 region-specific chapters include authorship from within that region. Nicely organized tables dominate over paragraphs of text. Occasional inconsistencies occur in the use of a unique font that sets off headings and subheadings, but this is a relatively minor side effect of a first printing.

The sequence that reliably characterizes nearly all of the region chapters is by organ system, with diseases then addressed categorically by du-
The Atlas clearly sets a new standard as a geographic medicine reference and is certain to become an indispensable tool for epidemiologists and infectious diseases specialists. The editors hope it will also encourage the reporting of infectious diseases worldwide, which may well become its most important role.

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