sociation for AIDS Care or Body Positive.

Overall, the dictionary is recommended as a useful addition to academic health sciences libraries and other libraries that have collections focusing on AIDS or that serve populations with special interests in this topic. The true value of the work is that it represents a significant recognition of the new vernacular spawned by the HIV/AIDS pandemic.

With increased attention on the AIDS pandemic, the need for information on available resources has also grown. The AIDS Directory is a direct result of the burgeoning information about HIV- and AIDS-related institutional and educational organizations. The preface notes that there are more than 20,000 organizations serving the AIDS community, and the directory focuses on an estimated 1,500 of these. Criteria for inclusion in the work is not clear from the prefatory remarks, but the compilers indicate that the work was written to provide “comprehensive coverage” of state health education departments, national organizations, hospitals and medical centers involved in research initiatives, regional service organizations, and hospices.

Appendix information is provided at the front rather than the back of the text and includes such items as federal programs that fund AIDS-related research and services, current congressional contacts, AIDS hot lines, and a selective bibliography of other print resources.

Almost 450 pages are devoted to profiles of organizations, arranged alphabetically with each entry including names of key personnel, addresses and phone numbers, mission statements, a classification of organization type, services provided, focus areas, and publications. Additional information is also included in notes to the profile.

Nearly 300 pages of the directory constitute the index section. There are indexes to organizations by location, type, services, focus groups or areas, names of officers and key staff, and type of support received. Additional indexes identify grant-making organizations and recipients of funding. The “Master Index” is the only referral point to specific pages. As is often noted in reviews, this text would benefit greatly from a combined index.

The information in The AIDS Directory is not new or even unique. It would take a Herculean effort to keep such a directory up to date. Many print and online resources that will do the same job are currently available at low cost. The work does not even include (or acknowledge) the existence of online resources for current information. The publishers should be advised to be wary of their claims of comprehensiveness, and librarians should not fall prey to the slick advertising. With a high price tag of $250.00, this text is only recommended for those libraries that purport to have comprehensive collections on HIV/AIDS literature.

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This extravaganza of pathology presents a potpourri of diseases, from AIDS to yellow fever. It represents a history of human susceptibility to a variety of bacteria, viruses, inflammatory processes, and invasions by hostile elements. Covering virtually the span of recorded knowledge, the book is arranged in major divisions consisting of “Medicine and Disease: an Overview,” “Changing Concepts of Health and Disease,” “Medical Specialties and Disease Prevention,” “Measuring Health,” “The History of Human Disease in the World Outside Asia,” “The History of Human Disease in Asia,” “The Geography of Human Disease,” and “Major Human Diseases Past and Present.” One has to marvel that it has taken only eight years since the start of the Cambridge History and Geography of Human Disease Project to collect the 4,000 pages of manuscript material from 160 contributors and edit it to a compact volume of less than one-third as many pages.

Written by social and medical scientists, each contribution was peer reviewed by one or more members of a board of specialists, with the overall purpose of providing an understandable and accessible history of disease. Similar in purpose to the New Sydenham Society’s Handbook of Geographical and Historical Pathology published from 1883 to 1886, this global compendium of humanity’s encounters with disease depicts the social, political, economic, legal, and ethical medical considerations of this process.

Disease is discussed within a broad context, developing the thesis that “... pathogens have wielded (and are wielding) a similar dramatic and decided power over the history of all peoples everywhere throughout the whole of mankind’s stay on the planet” (Preface). Because the less-developed nations of the world mirror the more historical causes of illness and death, these areas receive greater emphasis. Modern countries are discussed in terms of disease entities that have generally replaced the historical agents.

Some contributions span centuries and survey broad health-related topics. The reference librarian would be well advised to become familiar with the section...
topics. For example, there is a general treatment of genetic disease as well as a section on tobacco. The articles on public health and sanitation could provide useful background. Even the brief history of chiropractic might meet a future reference need.

The treatment of western medicine begins with a history from the fifth century B.C., and, in less than ten pages, the reader is brought past the work of Pasteur and Koch to the twentieth century. Similar broad strokes detail historical aspects of Chinese, Islamic, and Indian medicine. The article on “Disease, Human Migration and History” is a concise description of how disease has devastated populations worldwide over centuries as humans have migrated and new population reservoirs are exposed to what the Kiowa Indians called “wandering sicknesses” (p. 35). Although psychological disorders are not treated in much detail in the major disease division, the contribution on “Concepts of Mental Illness in the West” is one of the longest articles in the monograph.

Throughout the work, a bewildering array of sources are consulted, quoted, interpreted, and summarized. The reader is left with enough trivia to contest for top honors at social gatherings and cocktail parties for years to come. For example, it is not widely known that “… influenza, carried by pigs aboard Columbus’s ships, may have been the initial principal killers in Hispaniola…” (p. 40).

More than half of the volume is devoted to specific disease entities numbering 158 entries. Should one wish to learn the specifics about Carrion’s disease, Ebola virus disease, favism, lactose, intolerance and malabsorption, scrofula, or sudden unexplained death, it is all here and succinctly treated in less than half-a-dozen pages per contribution. The approach for each disease generally includes distribution and incidence, etiology and epidemiology, clinical manifestations and pathology, treatment and control, and history and geography. All contributions have bibliographies; some are extensive.

Tables, figures, and maps are included. The book includes only a few photographs, which would have been a welcome addition benefiting disease descriptions regarding clinical manifestations and pathology. Their value is illustrated by the photography accompanying the discussion of Paget’s disease on page 912. Disease names are presented alphabetically for ease in locating.

Indexes include a name index, with brief biographic entries for some of the individuals. The detailed hierarchical subject index requires acclimation and could have been improved by changes in format to include page headings and the use of boldface type.

The extensive list of contributors follows a detailed table of contents. The user will want to peruse this table of contents for a clear understanding of the major sections. The subject index amplifies the table of contents by pinpointing a specific disease synonym or a geographical feature. Index cross-references are adequate.

The Cambridge World History of Human Disease is highly recommended for all health sciences libraries and academic libraries in general. Larger public libraries will also find this useful. It contains a wealth of information, authoritatively presented, and at a reasonable cost.

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