The mycotic diseases, important from public health and economic point of view, are being recognized with increasing frequencies in humans as well as in domestic, farm, pet, zoo, laboratory and wild animals. They are global in distribution, occur in both sexes, all age groups, in rural and urban settings, in all seasons, in all climatic zones, in sporadic and epidemic form and produce high morbidity and mortality. It is estimated that about 20 per cent of world population is affected with dermatophyosis. The loss of animal protein because of mycotic diseases in animals, directly cause great financial losses to the dairy, fish and poultry industries.

There are over 250,000 species of fungi which are present in our universe. Of these, only 300 are recognized as true or opportunistic pathogens which produce serious disease in humans and animals including birds. Fungi are important cause of nosocomial infections. Many occupational groups including veterinarian, physician, agriculturist, livestock raiser, etc are exposed to fungal infections. The incidence of opportunistic mycoses is high in immunocompromised hosts. The etiologic agent of most of the mycotic diseases exist, grow and survive in diverse types of environmental materials. Human and animals may acquire fungal infection through exposure to a point source in environment where the fungus occurs as a saprobe.

The book entitled “Veterinary and Medical Mycology” is authored by Prof. Dr. Mahendra Pal who is a distinguished academician and an internationally known scientist in the field of Veterinary and Medical Mycology. He has over 350 papers and 4 books to his credit. Prof. Pal has immensely contributed on several fungal and actinomycetic diseases especially on cryptococcosis, aspergillosis, dermatophytosis, candidosis, geotrichosis, malsseziosis, rhinosporidiosis, dermatophilosis and nocardiosis. He has developed “PHOL” (Pal, Hasegawa, Ono, Lee) stain in 1990 and “NARAYAN” stain in 1998 which are employed to study the morphology of fungi and algae implicated in the etiology of many diseases in humans and animals including birds. He also developed sunflower seed medium for early diagnosis, epidemiological investigation and genetic mating studies of Cryptococcus neoformans.

The book is comprised of fifteen sections namely:
1. Section – I : General
2. Section - II : Mycological Techniques
3. Section –III : Superficial Mycoses
4. Section –IV : Cutaneous Mycoses
5. Section – V : Subcutaneous Mycoses
6. Section –VI : Systemic Mycoses
7. Section –VII : Opportunistic Mycoses
8. Section – VIII : Other Mycoses
9. Section – IX : Diseases due to Fungal Contaminated Foods
10. Section –X : Fungal Allergy
11. Section –XI : Actinomycetic infections
12. Section –XII : Algal Infections
13. Section –XIII : Diagnosis of Mycotic Diseases
14. Section –XIV : Chemotherapy of Mycotic Diseases
15. Section – XV : Laboratory Media and Stains
This is the first book in India which gives comprehensive information on many Fungal, algal and actinomycetic diseases of multiple etiologies in humans and in wide variety of animal species. Each mycotic disease is presented with synonym/s, definition, etiology, host, transmission, epidemiology, clinical signs in animals and man, diagnosis, treatment and prevention and control. Many clinical, cultural (gross and microscopic), radiological, histopathological photographs are included for better grasping of the subject by the students and researchers. There are XXIII appendices which contain very pertinent and useful information on many aspects including the fungi isolated from the milk and milk products, fish, meat, poultry and sea foods. The references are cited as “Further Reading” for each topic. The book also contains bibliography, glossary and subject index in the end.

This is a complete book which is worth reading and keeping in libraries of Veterinary and Medical Colleges in India and also other countries of the world as Veterinary Mycology is still one of the neglected area of biological sciences. Hence, Prof. Dr. Mahendra Pal deserves appreciation for writing an excellent text book on Veterinary and Medical Mycology. The book is reasonably priced as it can be afforded by the readers interested in study of mycoses. This book based on the long lasting and rich expertise of Prof. Pal will certainly prove very useful to the students, scientists, teachers of the veterinary, medical and allied sciences.

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