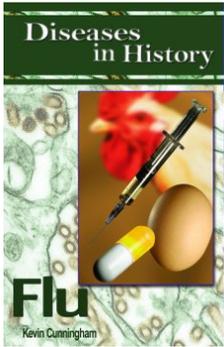


Diseases in History



Booklist

Issue: October 1, 2009

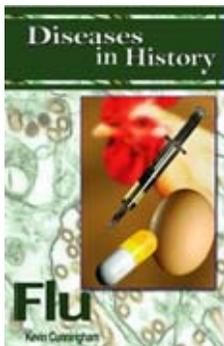
Flu.

Cunningham, Kevin (Author)

Jul 2009. 176 p. Morgan Reynolds, library edition, \$28.95. (9781599351056). 614.5.

Cunningham presents an in-depth look at influenza, including an explanation of its varieties and everchanging nature, speculation regarding outbreaks in early centuries, the 1918 pandemic, the challenges of identifying the virus, outbreaks in the twentieth century, and even the current potential crises of avian (H5N1) and swine (H1N1) flu. In looking at early unidentified outbreaks, Cunningham allows little room for misinterpretation by using clearly speculative language. His detailed explanation of the 1918 pandemic (called "Spanish influenza," thus the term used to identify the virus today), traces the progression of the flu around the world during WWI. As he

discusses the outbreaks of avian and swine flu in the modern age, he shows the economic impact that destroying birds and animals has on the livelihood of people in both developing and developed nations. Although text-heavy, the book is snappily written and provides a wealth of information for high-school researchers. The detailed back matter includes a lengthy bibliography. Other books in the Diseases in History series include Plague, Malaria, and HIV/Aids. -
J. B. Petty



School Library Journal - September, 2009

CUNNINGHAM, Kevin. Flu. 176p. (Diseases in History Series). photos. reprints. bibliog. chron. glossary. index. notes. Web sites. CIP. Morgan Reynolds. 2009. PLB \$28.95. ISBN 978-1-59935-105-6. LC 2008051620.

Gr 8 Up—This informative title reveals the continued concerns surrounding this killer disease and the possibility of a future pandemic. The text, though somewhat scientific, will help students to better understand the history of the virus, how it has mutated and jumped from animals to humans, and new concerns regarding more dangerous forms. A full-page insert clarifies the parts of each strain's identifying acronym. A chapter on historical accounts covers from Greece in 1250 B.C.E. and medieval European outbreaks, to possible 14th- and 15th-century New World illnesses and the catastrophic World War I Spanish flu, and concludes with a time line of pandemics throughout history. The book provides further information on the massive devastation caused by the 1918 flu,

examines its spread throughout the population, and looks at continued research by the medical community to better understand this disease and to prepare for the possibility of an avian flu outbreak. Color and black-and-white archival photos, as well as reproduction of a three-dimensional rendering of the flu virus, enhance the text. Some scientific terms are explained within the narrative, and the short glossary has additional explanations. Useful for research and personal information.—Susan Shaver, Hemingford Public Schools, NE



School Library Journal - January, 2010

CUNNINGHAM, Kevin. *HIV/AIDS*. ISBN 978-1-59935-104-9. LC 2008051616.

———. *Malaria*. ISBN 978-1-59935-103-2. LC 2008051619.

———. *Plague*. ISBN 978-1-59935-102-5. LC 2008051618.

ea vol: 144p. (Diseases in History Series). photos. reprints. bibliog. glossary. index. notes. Web sites. CIP. Morgan Reynolds. 2009. PLB \$28.95.

Gr 9 Up—These volumes provide in-depth looks at the origins of diseases and their paths throughout civilization and history. Because HIV/AIDS doesn't have the historical past of the other two illnesses, it emphasizes the impact of society's behaviors on the spread of the virus, the ability of the virus to mutate, and the other ailments that result from infection, as well as continued worldwide efforts to stop the spread. Malaria begins with an explanation of the development, the cycle, and conditions conducive to spreading the disease through a parasite, which is clarified with an accompanying illustration of the life cycle. The book continues with a chapter on the relationship

of farming practices and land characteristics to the spread, and how the disease affected past civilizations. In *Plague*, Cunningham provides details of archaic medicinal practices and the eventual misuse of plague in biological warfare and research. Color, as well as black-and-white photos, illustrations, and diagrams with captions scattered throughout the books assist in the understanding of these well-written texts. —*Susan Shaver, Hemingford Public Schools, NE*