
Microbiology

Laboratory manuals in bacteriology differ principally in respect to the number of exercises, the order in which they are arranged, the introductory remarks to the exercises, and the clarity of directions. This manual is fairly complete, containing twenty-four studies, sufficient for a course in general bacteriology. The arrangement of the exercises may be questioned. In Exercise 4 the nitron cycle is diagrammed but nitrogen fixation is relegated to Exercise 19. Why the nitrogen cycle should be considered before and not as a part of bacterial physiology is difficult to see. Exercise 9 is on Typhoid and Dysentery in Water; Sewage is considered in Exercise 20. Exercise 12 is on Tuberculosis; Exercise 21 on Diseases of Human Beings. The introductory remarks are not without errors. Few will agree with the statement in the Exercise on Dental Bacteriology that *Streptococcus hemolyticus* is probably the most common organism in the mouth and that "carious and putrescent teeth may be a real predisposing cause of tuberculosis, as decayed teeth afford lodgment and a portal of entry for such microbes by way of the root canal." The exercises are well illustrated and the directions clear. At the end of each exercise is a list of pertinent questions and a list of references. The Appendix contains a glossary and directions for the preparation of stains and media. However, even though the errors in fact were overlooked, the arrangement of the exercises is such that it would be difficult to fit this manual into many courses in general bacteriology.

—J. M. Birkeland.

Microbiology Laboratory Manual, by Paul W. Allen and George M. Cameron. 243 pp. St. Louis, Mo., The C. V. Mosby Company, 1940.