
Principles of Microbiology and Immunology. *Bernard D. Davis, Renato Dulbecco, Herman N. Eisen, Harold S. Ginsberg,* and *W. Barry Wood, Jr.* Harper and Row, New York. 1968. ix+853 p. $14.95.

As stated in the preface, this book is an excerpt of the authors' larger volume, "Microbiology", which was designed principally for medical students and physicians. The present volume also strongly emphasizes the molecular and genetic aspects of bacteriology and virology. By condensing some chapters and by the addition of supplementary references, the volume is reputedly made more useful to graduate-level, non-medical students.

The contents are divided into four sections, preceeded by the chapter, "Evolution of Microbes and of Microbiology." The first section, "Bacterial Physiology," includes ten chapters ranging from "Structure and Classification of Bacteria" to "Sterilization and Disinfection." The section on immunology includes eight chapters, from "Introduction to the Immune Response" through "Hypersensitivity" and "Mammalian Isoantigens" to "Pathogenic Properties of Bacteria." The third section includes a chapter on selected bacteria and one on selected fungi. The last section, "Virology", contains six chapters, from "The Nature of Viruses" through chapters on viral reproduction to "Viral Immunology and Pathogenesis." The approximate 4.5 percent of the book devoted to organisms is in keeping with the general premise of the book.

It is well-illustrated with diagrammatic or schematic drawings and with light and electron micrographs. References at chapter ends are adequate; paradoxically, no supplementary references are included for the sections on immunology and on selected microorganisms. Although a glossary is not included, new words are printed in bold-face type for easy recognition.

It is doubtful that the book is appropriate for the traditional introductory course in microbiology, because of the minimal coverage of classification and of the role(s) of geo- and hydromicroorganisms. However, the book should find wide acceptance because of its molecular approach to microbiology.

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