
Microbes and Men

Considerable objection can be raised to the title of this book if its purpose is to point out the importance of the microbes to human welfare. The all too prevalent idea that bacteria are important only insofar as they produce disease is one the biologist would like dispelled. Fortunately the author has written a book broader in viewpoint than the title would indicate. The book is well-balanced and accurate, the illustrations well-chosen, and the subject matter ably presented. It contains a good glossary and has an index. Since it is designed for the general reader and not for use as a text the jargon of the bacteriologist is avoided as much as possible. I am afraid, however, that the general reader may still find it difficult to appreciate much of the discussion. Somehow the book lacks fire.—*J. M. Birkeland.*

Man Against Microbes, by Joseph W. Bigger. 304 pp. New York, the Macmillan Co. 1939. \$2.50.