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three weak positive, and four positive. It appears therefore that although pyruvic-dependent strains lack catalase, catalase-negative strains are not necessarily pyruvic-dependent, and thus that catalase deficiency is not the whole explanation of the dependence of some strains of tubercle bacilli on pyruvic acid for growth on solid egg medium.

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The style is simple and clear, and though there are a few verbal infelicities, there are also some happy and penetrating remarks, such as, 'adrenal function has become for some the last refuge of the aetiologically destitute'. The only substantial criticism of the book is the lack of coordination of information dealt with in more than one chapter; thus a subject dealt with in detail in a later chapter may be mentioned casually in an early chapter without explanation and without a cross reference. However, there is a good index.

Pitman's have produced the book well in a pleasant type which, combined with the author's style, makes for easy reading. The price may seem on the high side, but the book is well worth it, and should be in every laboratory which attempts to diagnose diseases of the adrenal cortex.

G. K. MCGOWAN

suggest for it will certainly be useful in hospital and public health laboratories. It is difficult to imagine any bacteriologist who would not be glad of reliable help on such topics as counts of viable bacteria, the precise control of defined media, reliable pH estimations, measurement of oxidation-reduction potential, practical methods of sterilization, plate microscopy, use of membrane filters, infectivity titrations, comparison of dose response curves, and preservation of cultures. These, and many other relevant matters, are very clearly set out and discussed in a genuinely helpful manner. Numerous tables, not elsewhere readily available in one book, will greatly lessen the amount of computation involved in standard procedures. There is no doubt that Dr. and Mrs. Meynell have written a book which will be extremely helpful to all microbiologists.

J. W. HOWIE

CORRECTION

On page 600 in the paper 'Enzymatic release from the red cells in megaloblastic anaemia' (*J. clin. Path.*, **18**, 599), line 25, col. 1, please read 0.2 ml. and not 2.2 ml. as printed and on page 601, col. 1, P < 0.1 should read P > 0.1.

THEORY AND PRACTICE IN EXPERIMENTAL BACTERIOLOGY
By G. C. Meynell and Elinor Meynell. (Pp. xii + 228. 50s.) London: Cambridge University Press. 1965.
This attractive book has a wider range than its title may

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