

This is a companion volume to Bergey's 'Manual of determinative bacteriology' (7th edition). It has 330 pages.

In addition to the key for bacterial genera, standard methods are given, with references, on which to base identification. In this edition a brief account of numerical analysis applied to identification is also included.

The digest of genera is particularly useful for quick reference, and the key to genera also lists names used in modern standard books of bacteriology in English, French, and German, in addition to those used in the Manual. Although Latin names are universally employed, habits of nomenclature in the literature are variable and it is helpful to have this part of the book brought up to date.

If methods for obtaining anaerobiosis are to be included a Mackintosh and Fildes jar and Brewers jar are worthy of mention. The reader should also be warned that some indicator of anaerobiosis is essential for reliable work and that a single plate method with pyrogallol, as described here, is a poor substitute for a jar with an indicator.

For the medical bacteriologist the book is useful for occasional quick reference and particularly for elucidation of nomenclature encountered in foreign literature. The type is clear and no printing errors were discovered.

E. JOAN STOKES

REVIEW OF MEDICAL MICROBIOLOGY 7th Ed. By E. Jawetz, J. L. Melnick, and E. A. Adelberg. (Pp. 492; illustrated. 50s.) Los Altos, California: Lange Medical Publications.

This edition is even better than its predecessors. It contains a remarkable quantity of accurate up-to-date information but at the cost of some indigestibility. A reader with no previous knowledge would find it hard to distinguish wood from trees. However, the book is very suitable for senior students, and excellent for post-

graduates requiring an authoritative reintroduction to microbiology.

The chapter on chemotherapy has been rewritten and a new chapter added on viruses and cancer. Much space is given to metabolism, genetics, and virology—a welcome emphasis in a modern elementary textbook.

The chapters on viruses are excellent. Those on immunity and hypersensitivity, though good, are not outstanding. This expanding field would justify rewriting and a little more space in future editions. There are few details to criticise; the table of chemical disinfectants (p. 122) should be revised; mercuric and quaternary ammonium compounds are not suitable for disinfecting instruments and inanimate objects.

W. A. GILLESPIE

CANCER RESEARCH TODAY By I. Berenblum. (Pp. xii + 151; illustrated. 30s.) Oxford and London: Pergamon Press. 1967.

Cancer research has become a complex subject directly involving thousands of research workers and indirectly a great many more. To keep up to date requires regular study of the many relevant journals and reviews but, as Dr. Berenblum points out, to understand the significance of current research it is often necessary to know what has gone before. This book is a pocket guide to both past and present.

It is reasonably comprehensive in its scope, with clinical sections for the non-medical oncologist and a useful chapter on methods which should at least dispel the clinicians' customary scorn for the laboratory mouse. Naturally in only 148 pages the treatment is superficial but the writing is clear and, as one might expect, the phenomena of initiation and promotion are especially well-expounded. As an introduction for doctors, nurses, or laboratory technicians, to a subject which they are very likely to encounter at some time or other, this is a useful book.

H. E. M. KAY