

BACTERIAL AND MYCOTIC INFECTIONS OF MAN

Edited by RENE J. DUBOS, Ph.D. Pp. xii + 785,
98 text figures and 3 colour plates. J. B. Lippin-
cott Company. 1948. 45s.

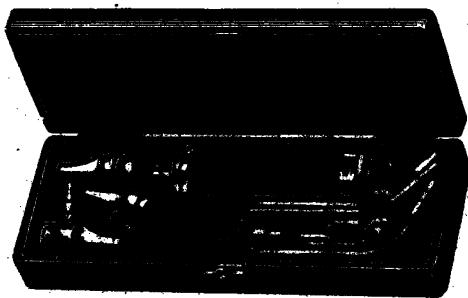
The low price of this large and handsomely produced textbook has been made possible by a generous grant from the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis. There are 34 contributors, including the editor, each a recognized authority on the particular subject he writes on, such as T. Francis on host-parasite relationships, Treffers on

immunology, MacLeod on pneumococci, Eagle on spirochaetes and Conant on mycology. Although the contributors have their individual outlooks it is evident that the editor has been highly successful in obtaining uniformity in the form and scope of their articles so that we have here a well-balanced and useful textbook.

The book sets out to describe, mainly for medical students, the bacteria and fungi pathogenic to man and the phenomena of infection. A welcome feature, not only in the chapters on general bacteriology but in the descriptions of the individual micro-organisms, is the emphasis laid on the properties which play a part in determining pathogenic behaviour and on the manifold manifestations of the response made by the host to the various constituents and products of the invading parasites. In the chapters on the different pathogenic bacteria the diphtheria bacillus is described first to illustrate toxæmia and antitoxic immunity and is followed by the pneumococcus to exemplify the problems of antibacterial immunity. The next chapter on the streptococcus shows how a single microbial agent can exhibit multiple pathogenic potentialities and elicit many different tissue responses to its presence. Tuberculosis in the following chapter illustrates the acute and chronic phases of infection and the allergic manifestations arising from previous infection. The arrangement of the chapters is thus well designed to ensure that the reader gets an early grasp of the many facets of the problems of infection before embarking on the descriptions of the other pathogenic micro-organisms each of which produces some of these aspects of infection in various forms. In each description there is also included an adequate account of the pathology and epidemiology of the infection.

This book is comprehensive and up-to-date, and has eminently succeeded in what it has set out to do. It is perhaps on too large a scale for the beginner in bacteriology, but it will be of great value to the senior student and to graduates who wish to become acquainted with the more recently acquired knowledge of infective processes.

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