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NEW BOOKS SIGNIFICANT IN
SYSTEMATIC BACTERIOLOGY

Allgemeine Mikrobiologie. Leitsätze für Studierende und
Ärzte. By Ulrich Schneeweiss and Eva-Marie Fabricus.
Walter de Gruyter and Co., Berlin. Price 20 DM. 1968.

Spezielle Mikrobiologie. Leitsätze für Studierende und
Ärzte. By Ulrich Schneeweiss and Eva-Marie Fabricus.
Walter de Gruyter and Co., Berlin. Price 30 DM. 1968.

These two plastic-covered, paperback volumes are guides in medical microbiology. The first book covers general principles of epidemiology, immunology, bacteriology and virology. The second book contains detailed descriptions of the pathogenic microorganisms: Kugelbakterien, Darmbakterien, Parvobakterien, Korynebakterien, Sporenbildner, Fadenbakterien, Spirochäten, Rickettsien, Grosse Viren, Pockenviren, Herpesviren, Myxoviren, Arboviren, Picornaviren, Protozoen, and Pilze.

There are several features of these well-organized but poorly-illustrated volumes that deserve special mention. First, key phrases appear in little black boxes on almost every page. For example, on one page appears, "Das transformierende Prinzip ist chemisch reine Desoxyribonukleinsäure (DNS);" the process of transformation is described in some detail on the same page. This helps to guide the student to important factual material in a manner similar to highlighting of key phrases with a felt-tip marker, which is a common practice among students in the United States. Another outstanding feature of these volumes is the inclusion in each chapter of a brief historical section; the dates of key events are listed, together with the names of the investigators who made outstanding discoveries and a brief description of each discovery. Thus, the historical is tied in with the present-day status of every area of microbiology discussed. An author index contains a list of workers that were cited in the text. A helpful glossary also appears at the end of each volume. The general indices are exceptionally complete, so the information in the books is readily available to the reader.

- Paul A. Hartman

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