Virology Monographs. 2. The Simian Viruses by R.N. Hull and Rhinoviruses by D.A.J. Tyrrell. Springer-Verlag, New York Inc. 1968. Price \$ 8.50.

Hull in his manuscript valiantly attempts to cover the whole gamut of known simian viruses in what is primarily an effort in classification of this diverse group. He does bring together an extensive literature and in light of the use of subhuman primates in viral research, this monograph will prove of value. The second monograph of the volume, Rhinoviruses by Tyrrell, deals with a more limited topic and the reader will find this to be a clearly written, comprehensive and well-documented manuscript.

- D.P. Durand

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A Dictionary of Microbial Taxonomic Usage. By S.T. Cowan, Oliver and Boyd, Edinburgh. Price 42s. 1968.

This masterpiece is both a dictionary and a primer. It is a dictionary in that American and British usage of approximately 900 words or terms is provided. It is a primer in the sense that the terms are discussed at more length than is commonplace in most dictionaries. Each term, from "a-" through "zymogram", is given sufficient attention that its taxonomical meaning is made clear to the reader.

Among the more interesting definitions are several "Cowanisms" (a term coined specifically for this book review); a "Cowanism" is a straightforward and jocular, yet sympathetic and sincere, comment about a taxonomical term, taxonomist, or group of taxonomists. Among these Cowanisms are definitions of "Buchananism", to whom the book was dedicated, and "Kauffmannism." Other, more subtle Cowanisms make the book a delight to read, although I doubt that it will rank among the top ten fiction or non-fiction books on the popular "best-seller" lists.

The book fills a need for concise definitions of terms used in bacterial taxonomy. It should find its place alongside Bergey's Manual and Index Bergeyana on the bookshelf of every bacteriological laboratory. Since the book (118 pages) is printed on very heavy paper (lightweight cardboard?), it will withstand much use and abuse by the reader. One of the greatest values of the book, however, is its content of definitions; these will be plagiarized by the people who com-

pile larger and more grandiose dictionaries covering much broader areas of biology; hopefully, this will lead to additional standardization of terminology in years to come.

Cowan's Dictionary is rather specialized in that it will be of little use except in the field of taxonomy - especially bacterial taxonomy. The book is selective. Terms used only in mycology remain in the Dictionary of the Fungi. A recent Dictionary of Genetics contains terms used in this science, although some terms directly concerned with microbial taxonomy are included in the present volume. Such terms as "transcription" and "translation" are absent, and "viron" and similar terms were excluded for one reason or another. The basic vocabulary of the numerical taxonomist has been included; many other terms peculiar to specific numerical taxonomists have been omitted so, "we may yet save them from their introspective selves." (Another Cowanism). These omissions are unfortunate because it is these unfamiliar terms that often force one to frequent a dictionary. Sooner or later a decision has to be made about which of the new terms should or should not be perpetuated. By excluding these terms, Dr. Cowan has decided that none are worthy of perpetuation.

The book has provided sufficient material to start a logomacy. (The reader will have to obtain a copy of the Dictionary to discover the taxonomical meaning of this term).

- Paul A. Hartman

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Current Topics in Microbiology and Immunology. Volume 42. Insect Viruses. Karl Maramorosch. Ed. Springer-Verlag. New York Inc. 1968.

The volume under review contains seven chapters based upon papers presented at a symposium on insect viruses held in conjunction with the 67th Annual Meeting of the American Society for Microbiology in New York on 30 April-4 May 1967. The purpose of that symposium and the present volume was stated to be "----- the feeling that the divergent areas of research, up to now studied separately by entomologists, medical and public health workers, geneticists, and plant pathologists, would be brought together, crossing the artificial borders and finding new, exciting and inspiring vistas." This admirable goal was only in part realized due to the common fault of scientific subspecialists--