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-