talking to oneself. Sympathy on the part of the authors for the uninitiated reader or, at least, the inclusion of a glossary of terms could have offset this problem. The reader will also note that there is an unusual degree of apologetics throughout the volume, no doubt stemming from the lack of a good quantitative assay for insect viruses. The older virologists among us will certainly understand this tone of lament and shared jealousy of the phageologist. The chapters were for the most part fairly well written, especially the last chapter, Viruses - Living Insecticides, by C. M. Ignoffo. A detailed subject index will aid the reader although it did seem a bit overdone, representing over twelve percent of the volume. The major strength of the volume is that it does bring together most of the existing information known about this important and little studied group of viruses and on this basis alone is worthy of consideration.

- Donald P. Durand

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Andrewes, Sir Christopher and Pereira, H. C. Viruses of Vertebrates. Second Edition. Baltimore, Williams and Wilkins Company. 1967.

Since its first appearance in 1964 Sir Christopher Andrewes' book "Viruses of Vertebrates" has become an indispensable part of the reference library of the animal virologist. The concise and well-organized format of this book makes it a useful quick reference to the essential characteristics of the known animal viruses. The second edition of "Viruses of Vertebrates" will be welcomed by virologists since the rapid growth of the science of Virology has rendered obsolete or inaccurate much of the information contained in the first edition. New information has been added in many areas and some of the hitherto vaguely defined viruses have now been quite well characterized.

The authors have covered an extremely large and rapidly expanding field of knowledge and thus it is not surprising that they have not always succeeded in presenting the latest available information.

This book appears in the midst of an era of controversy over viral classification and nomenclature. In view of the fact that the International Committee for the Nomenclature of Viruses is at present attempting to establish a latinized binomial system of viral nomenclature it is commendable

that the authors of this book have refrained from emphasizing their own ideas on this subject. They have presented their information by dividing the book into three parts, "Part I, RNA Viruses," "Part II, DNA Viruses", and "Part III, Unclassified Viruses." The viruses are assigned to the various groups on the basis of their physical and chemical characteristics, e.g. the nucleic acid type, nucleocapsid symmetry and the presence of essential lipids in the viral envelopes. While some of their "groups" e.g. "Leukemogenic and other Rodent RNA Viruses" and "Avian Leukosis-Sarcoma Complex" may not be valid natural groups they serve as an adequate interim repository for inadequately described viruses of similar pathogenicity. This type of grouping must however be abandoned when the basic physical and chemical characteristics of these viruses has been sufficiently elucidated to allow classification on the basis of the characteristics of the virion.

The agents of the genus Chlamydia (psittacosis-lymphogranuloma-trachoma agents) have been excluded from the second edition of "Viruses of Vertebrates" since they are now known to be bacteria and not viruses.

This book is a well-written and timely contribution from recognized authorities in the field of animal virology. The vast store of information encompassed by "Viruses of Vertebrates" makes it a must for any virological laboratory.

C.J. Maré

Bacteriology Illustrated. Second Edition. By R.R. Gillies and T.C. Dodds. Williams and Wilkins, Baltimore.
Price \$ 11.00. 1968.

This book is divided into three sections. The first section (36 pages) deals with the general principles of bacterial morphology, cultivation and serology. This section adds nothing to the ordinary bacteriology laboratory manual, and should have been eliminated when the book was revised; the few worthwhile illustrations in this section could have been moved to the second section.

The second section (101 pages) covers Systematic Bacteriology. Two-thirds of the 120 illustrations in the book appear in this section. The bulk of the pictures are photographs of stained smears or typical colonies, although