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

some attention is paid other reactions of diagnostic interest. Thus, the book is helpful to those who want to see a photograph of a stained smear, a typical colony, or a special test -- but the picture may not be the specific one that the reader desired. For example, the only picture of Mycobacterium tuberculosis is a Ziehl-Neelsen stain, which helps little if the reader would like to see a photograph of a positive Auramine O stain. Or the picture may be of a culture on blood or MacConkey's agar, while the reader was interested in colonial form on another medium. Colonies of Salmonella Spp., for example, are pictured only on DCA agar; photographs of salmonellae on other media would be extremely useful to many people.

The last section (47 pages) contains flow charts and text outlining procedures for bacteriological examination of various types of specimens. This information is a handy review for students and practitioners, but similar charts can be obtained free of charge in the newly-revised BBL Manual of Products and Laboratory Procedures and from other sources. A bibliography lists selected references helpful to those seeking more information. The index is adequate.

The cost of the book is reasonable, considering the fact that two-thirds of the illustrations are in color. Inclusion of more illustrations would raise the price of the book, but would increase its usefulness substantially. The title of this book infers that it is a veritable wealth of photographs; in reality, the book contains fewer figures than do most new texts in bacteriology. The next edition could well be enlarged and improved substantially if this book is to maintain a prominent place on the bacteriologist's bookshelf; the second edition was little improvement over the first.

- Paul A. Hartman

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Acetic Acid Bacteria: Classification and Biochemical Activities. By T. Asai. University Park Press, Baltimore and University of Tokyo Press, Tokyo. Price \$17.50. 1968.

This book is a 343-page compilation of data on the classification of the acetic acid bacteria and on their biochemical activities. The reason for writing the book is given by Professor Asai in the Preface: