BOOK REVIEW

Les Bacteries Anaerobies. Mise à Jour 1972. A. R. Prévot. Editions Crouan et Roques, Lille, 499 pp. 120 francs. In 1967, Prévot, Turpin and Kaiser published *Les Bacteries Anaerobies*, a 2,200 page tome on the anaerobic bacteria that covered the literature from 1937 to 1965 and that contains more information on the anaerobic bacteria than any other book. *Mise à Jour 1972* is designed to supplement *Les Bacteries Anaerobies*, and the author points out that it may be read with profit only by those who have the 1967 treatise at hand. *Mise à Jour 1972* covers the literature on the obligate anaerobes from 1964–1965 to 1970. It is divided into four principal parts—*Asporulales*, describing recent work with the non-sporing anaerobes, especially the anaerobic cocci, the gram-negative and gram-positive non-sporing rods, and the spirilla; *Sporulales*, which takes up almost one-half of the book and places the greatest emphasis on the pathogenic clostridia; *Actinomycetales*, covering the bifidobacteria, the anaerobic actinomycetes, the anaerobic corynebacteria, and the propionibacteria; and *Thiobacteriales*, which reviews the literature on the sulfur and non-sulfur purple bacteria, the chlorobacteria, and the beggiatoa. The last chapter in this book deals with the treponemes and the borrelia.

Dr. Prévot is not hesitant in disagreeing on taxonomic matters with the Subcommittees of the International Committee on Systematic Bacteriology, particularly those on *Actinomycetales* and on the gram-negative anaerobic rods: with the first because they include both aerobes and facultative anaerobes in a

group that he believes should contain only obligate anaerobes or microaerophiles; with the second because of the establishment of the genus *Fusobacterium* from two older genera, *Sphaerophorus* and *Fusiformis*, as well as the designation of a neotype strain of *Bacteroides* (*Ristella*) *fragilis* that Dr. Prévot maintains does not have the characteristics that members of this species must have. Many microbiologists are not in agreement with him, however, feeling that *Bacteroides* should be considered a valid genus.

Dr. Prévot retired from his position as Chef de Service of the Institut Pasteur of Paris a few years ago. The reviewer takes this opportunity to make brief mention of Dr. Prévot's noteworthy contributions to the field of microbiology; for many years his laboratory at the Institut Pasteur was the world center for the anaerobic bacteria; his collection of anaerobes isolated from clinical materials was unmatched and at the service of other microbiologists; and, more than any other, he established the bases by which some logic and order could be brought to the large and complicated group of non-sporing anaerobes. *Les Bacteries Anaerobies, Mise à Jour 1972* is another contribution from Dr. Prévot, to whom we other anaerobists owe so much.

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