Book Review

Identification Methods for Microbiologists, 2nd ed. F. A. Skinner and D. W. Lovelock, ed. The Society For Applied Bacteriology Technical Series No. 14. Academic Press, Inc., New York, N.Y., 1979, 315 p., \$34.50.

In 1966 and 1968, the Society for Applied Bacteriology published a two-part series under the title *Identification Methods for Microbiologists*. Part A was edited by B. M. Gibbs and D. A. Shapton, and part B was edited by B. M. Gibbs and F. A. Skinner. Both volumes met immediate acceptance, and they have been valuable sources of general information for the past ten or more years.

The present volume is an update of 17 chapters that appeared in the original two-part series. Significant advances in identification methods, and substantial changes in taxonomy that occurred with the publication of the eighth edition of *Bergey's Manual of Determinative Bacteriology*, have been incorporated into the new book. Some chapters have been completely rewritten, usually by one or more of the original authors. Many chapters have been reorganized and expanded in content; they are more useful than before. Other chapters contain modest revisions.

The 17 subjects and 31 contributors in the new book are: pseudomonads (M. S. Hendrie and J. M. Shewan); *Xanthomonas* (A. C. Hayward); acetic acid bacteria (J. G. Carr and S. M. Passmore); *Rhizobium* (J. M. Vincent, P. S. Nutman, and F. A. Skinner); *Brucella* (M. J. Corbel, C. D. Bracewell, E. L. Thomas, and K. P. W. Gill); *Enterobacteriaceae* (S. P. Lapage, B. Rowe, B. Holmes, and R. J. Gross); human vibrios (A. L. Furniss); *Aeromonas*, *Vibrio*, and

close relatives (J. V. Lee, M. S. Hendrie, and J. M. Shewan); *Chromobacterium* (P. H. A. Sneath); Gram-negative, yellow rods (P. R. Hayes, T. A. McMeekin, and J. M. Shewan); *Bacteroidaceae* (E. M. Barnes), staphylococci and micrococci (A. C. Baird-Parker); *Clostridium* (P. D. Walker and I. Batty); lactic acid bacteria (M. E. Sharpe); *Nocardia*, *Actinomadura*, and *Rhodococcus* (M. Goodfellow and K. P. Schaal); analysis of bacterial DNA (R. J. Owen and L. R. Hill); and an improved automatic multipoint inoculator (P. R. Watt).

Thirteen chapters that appeared in the 1966-1968 versions of this book were omitted from the present volume. These include chapters on *Mycobacterium*, *Streptomyces*, azotobacters, *Acinetobacter*, *Bacillus*, mycoplasmas, blue-green algae (cyanobacteria), and yeasts, as well as five chapters on specific methods. Thus, the present volume does not replace entirely the two earlier books.

Continued popularity of *Identification Methods* is assured because of the topics that are covered and the excellent quality of the reviews. Each review is succinct and complete. Selected key references are included so that readers have access to detailed information, if needed. This book will be a continued resource and aid to bacteriologists through the decade of the eighties, and a copy should be placed in every bacteriological laboratory.

Paul A. Hartman
Department of Microbiology
Iowa State University
Ames, Iowa 50011