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## Book Reviews

## J. Drews

## Immunpharmakologie

Springer-Verlag, Berlin, Heidelberg, New York, Tokyo 1986 234 pages, 55 figures, 10 tables

Price: 78,- DM

The reviewed monograph tries to give a comprehensive overview of the relatively young science of immunopharmacology for non-specialists in this field. After an introductory chapter on the cellular and humoral immune system, the author describes in four chapters the different groups of substances which influence the human immune system. The first of these chapters deals with polyclonal and monoclonal antibodies. The nature of the various immunoglobulin preparations is discussed as well as their application in animal experiments and in clinical situations. In the second chapter different groups of substances, which are able to suppress various immune mechanisms, are described. This includes their chemistry, in vitro activity on various humoral or cellular immune mechanisms and their clinical relevance. Substances with anti-allergic properties are discussed in a separate chapter. First, the different types of acute allergic reactions are discussed followed by a description of anti-allergic substances. One chapter is dedicated to immunostimulation. This chapter is divided into three parts dealing with substances of human origin, microbial origin and of synthetic nature. Their possible application in the (adjuvant) therapy of malignancies and infectious diseases is critically discussed. In the last chapter the author discusses the current relevance of and the perspectives in clinical immunopharmacology. A well selected reference section, including recent papers, is given as an appendix. All in all, the monograph by Jürgen Drews is a comprehensive but valuable German introduction to the field of immunopharmacology.

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T. Bergan (ed.).:

Methods in Microbiology, Vol. 15

375 pages, numerous figures

Academic Press London 1984

Price: \$ 54.-

This volume continues the classification of Enterobacteriaceae started in volume 14, again with special emphasis on the serological characterization. The first chapter presents an extensive overview of Salmonella serotyping followed by a description of the typing of Citrobacter and Serratia marcescens, both species closely related to Salmonella. Two chapters deal with bio- and serotyping of Edwardsiella tarda and Erwinia, bacteria rarely occurring in clinical diagnostic specimens. The last part of the book deals with the characterization of Yersinia describing the taxonomic biochemistry of all species, but the detailed serotyping of Yersinia enterocolitica only. An appendix-like chapter is dedicated to the fatty acid composition of gram-negative bacilli and its possible role in the classification of these bacteria. All chapters have been written by experts in each respective field. It is possible to find very detailed information about both methodology and interpretation of serotyping of Enterobacteriaceae species in a comprehensive context. Thus, both volumes (14 and 15) are of great value for the clinical and scientific microbiology laboratory. I should mention however, that I regretted that more information was not included on the relevance of some of the enterobacterial species discussed.

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