biological aspects; the brief epidemiological descriptions relate primarily to the United States. The final two sections deal with antimicrobial agents and susceptibility tests plus aspects of quality control.

In the introduction, the Editor in Chief states that the intended users of the book are "those who work in any . . . laboratory settings . . . . and whose job responsibilities include clinical microbiology in any or all of its ramifications" and that "users must have knowledge of the fundamentals of microbiology and possess basic laboratory skills". Public health physicians working as control of infection officers, whether as full time consultants in communicable disease control or combining this work with other responsibilities, should have a degree of cross training in medical microbiology and will undoubtedly require reference texts on the subject. While this may initially seem to be an excellent text for this purpose, it will be difficult for the public health physician working in the United Kingdom to know how many of the methods and procedures are to laboratory practice in this country, and for this reason the Manual of clinical microbiology may be of limited value for this group.

### Manual of Clinical Microbiology

This book on clinical microbiology, which seems to be written principally as a reference text for the clinical microbiologist working in the United States, is a huge tome of 122 chapters contained in 10 sections; the introduction gives a useful indication of how the book is structured and should be used. Section I (chapters 1–7) provides an interesting overview of general issues in clinical microbiology such as pathogenicity, specimen handling, and assessment of new technologies. Section II on diagnostic technologies in clinical microbiology is very detailed and may be useful to the communicable disease specialist wishing to learn more about specific tests. Section III on nosocomial and community infections contains some very interesting chapters on the epidemiology, monitoring, and control of hospital acquired infection plus the investigation of a community outbreak. However, this is the American perspective and is not entirely applicable to the United Kingdom situation. The following five sections (IV to VIII) contain chapters dealing with specific microorganisms, the emphasis being on medical aspects; the brief epidemiological descriptions relate primarily to the United States. The final two sections deal with antimicrobial agents and susceptibility tests plus aspects of quality control.

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### Health and Class: The Early Years

The persistence of class differences, despite nearly half a century of an almost free health service, is one of the less attractive aspects of British society. The National Child Development Study has been following the fortunes of 17,000 children born during week of 1958, 10 years after the creation of the NHS. In this book, researchers from the Social Statistics Research Unit at London's City University examine findings from its 1981 survey (based on interviews with three quarters of its original sample) plus material from earlier interviews, to explore class differences in the health of these young adults.

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