

DIAGNOSTIC PROCEDURES FOR VIRAL AND RICKETTSIAL INFECTIONS

FOURTH EDITION

Edited by

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Subcommittee on Diagnostic Procedures for Viral
and Rickettsial Infections**

and

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Bacteria
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FOREWORD

In the short span of five years it became necessary to plan a new edition of this volume. This fact attests to the success of its predecessor. Preparation of the new edition made it possible to include new information from this rapidly changing field. Appreciation is expressed to Dr. Edwin H. Lennette and Dr. Nathalie J. Schmidt for a major contribution as Editors of this volume. We are indebted, also, to the members of their committee, who served so effectively in this important task. Sincere thanks are due to the many authors, who devoted much of their valuable time to the preparation of the various chapters. It is hoped that the Fourth Edition will continue to be of value to students, as well as to microbiologists, physicians, and public health workers.

Coordinating Committee on Laboratory Methods

November 1968

PREFACE TO THE FOURTH EDITION

Our rapidly expanding knowledge of viral diseases and the concurrent development of virologic technics and procedures has produced a wealth of new material since the previous edition of this book in 1964. As pointed out in the preface to the Second Edition, "To attain a completely current status for a book dealing with technical procedures in a field of rapid growth is difficult," but the practical value of a book of this nature is lost if the procedures described are outmoded. An attempt to keep abreast of new and important developments in this field gave rise to this new edition, and again raised the matter of size and compactness. It was the aim of the Editors that the new edition should not, in so far as possible, exceed the physical size of the Third. To effect this, considerable but variable amounts of older material have been deleted from the various chapters and replaced by current information. In other cases, the chapters have been entirely rewritten and brought up to date and new chapters dealing with rubella, rhinoviruses and coronaviruses have been added. As in prior editions, each author is an authority in his field and has been given wide latitude to incorporate in his chapter the material which in his judgment he considered most useful and practicable in the diagnosis of viral diseases and infections. The Editors have, however, attempted to have each chapter follow, within practical limitations, a predetermined sequence of presentation so that material dealing with a specific aspect of diagnosis would appear in essentially the same position as in other chapters, and that every phase of diagnostic approaches

would be covered. In addition, the Editors have striven to impose some degree of uniformity in usage of terms, in the spelling of words and acronyms, and a certain amount of brevity. With respect to the last point, however, where much important new information or material was involved, the author was not constrained as to allowable number of pages. Although the species of *Mycoplasma* and *Bedsonia* are not classifiable as viruses, they have, like the *Rickettsiae*, been retained because of their long or traditional association with the viral group and because, at the moment, they appear to have no other home except that proffered by the virologist.

As in the past, all the contributors and the Editors constitute the Subcommittee on Diagnostic Procedures for Viral and Rickettsial Infections which has been charged with, and is responsible for, the preparation of this Edition.

Dr. Nathalie J. Schmidt has again capably served as the Associate Editor, and the Editor gratefully acknowledges her major contribution to the editing of the technical and scientific material in the book. He is also much indebted to Miss Maja H. Platzer who served as Production Editor; to Mrs. Marilla Bodily, who prepared the Index; and to Miss Helen F. Hough, Publications Editor of the Association, for her counsel and guidance in the publication aspects. He is also pleased to acknowledge the valuable assistance of Mrs. Constance Harrison, who carried the major burden of the secretarial work, correspondence and record keeping in the office of the Editors.

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