

## **Book Reviews**

**Deutsche Sammlung von Mikroorganismen – DSM (German Collection of Microorganisms).** Edited by D. Claus, Petra Laek and Britta Nev. DSM, Grisebachstrasse 8, D-3400 Göttingen, FRG, 1988. xx + 414 pp. Available from the publishers to bona fide applicants.

Microorganisms produce a wide variety of polysaccharides and are continuously cultured for an even industrial production of carbohydrates. Various centres exist for the collection and distribution of microorganisms. The main function of the 'German Collection of Microorganisms' is to collect, preserve and supply authentic cultures of living microorganisms (bacteria and fungi, including yeasts).

The first edition of this book (a catalogue of strains) was published in 1974. Since then the centre has grown extensively, and recently moved into new premises. It has now published what is essentially an informative catalogue which not only indicates what is available, but gives the user a classification index. The first part of the book contains a very wide list of bacteria, whilst lists of filamentous fungi and yeasts are provided in subsequent parts. Further sections cover: lists of microorganisms which are used in schools, universities, etc., for teaching purposes; strains that have been recommended as test strains for various applications, such as for the production of amino acids, vitamins, antibiotics, enzymes and metabolites, etc.; peptidoglycan types; and media including their components and some practical details of how to prepare them, such as optimal pHs, recommended reagents, etc. The catalogue also contains a wide numerical index of the microorganisms as well as 2480 references. It is a useful source book for carbohydrate polymer technologists.

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