

## Book Reviews

**Foodborne Microorganisms and their Toxins: Developing Methodology.** Edited by Merle D. Pierson and Norman J. Stern. Marcel Dekker, New York, 1986. 496 pp. ISBN 0-8247-7607-0. Price: \$59.75 (US and Canada); \$71.50 (elsewhere).

This book is the product of a symposium held in the United States in June 1985 and comprises 20 chapters offering a comprehensive coverage of all aspects of food microbiology methodology. In general, an overview of present methodology and future possibilities is presented, rather than the results of current research. Included are chapters that survey the well-established methods for enumerating and identifying food spoilage microbes and pathogens, as well as chapters on the newer techniques that are receiving study at the present time. This reviewer found especially clear and readable the chapters dealing with regulating aspects of food microbiology methodology, impedance methods, and a final chapter on future developments. This last chapter makes the point that, although more rapid methods are needed, the assessment of microbes in foods in many cases needs to distinguish between those able to grow in the food environment and those unable to do so. Hence, growth- or metabolism-dependent methods will be required for the prediction of shelf life or spoilage potential.

Overall, the book is produced to a high standard and has a useful index. Although most of the material has been published elsewhere it is useful to have it all collected together in one volume.

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