

The book is well presented and appears to be free of typographical errors. The index is adequate, if not overly generous for a book of this size. At a price of over £200 the book is not likely to be a personal purchase but can be commended as useful reference source for libraries with interests in biotechnology, food science and technology.

**J. D. Owens**

**Microbiological Control for Foods and Agricultural Products.** Edited by C. M. Bourgeois & J.-Y. Leveau, translated by S. Davids. VCH Publishers, New York, 1995. ISBN 1-56081-673-2. 542 pp. Price: £92.00

This is an English translation of an original French book. No date is given for the French publication but authors' references are generally only up to 1989. Consequently, these are hardly up-to-date reviews and, recognising this, the English edition editor has added supplementary bibliographic lists of

'recommended reading' of articles published between 1990 and 1994.

The book itself is a multi-authored tome of thirty five often rather brief chapters dealing with general and basic techniques for estimating microbial populations, including specific methods for different types of bacteria, fungi, pathogens, foods and equipment. Information is included on methods, medium formulations and French food regulations. There is some attempt to consider rapid methods but, with a relatively rapidly developing area such as this, these chapters are especially out of touch with current practice. In spite of the title, agricultural products other than foods are not considered. The majority of the chapters are at a level which is neither a thorough review of methodology in 1989 nor a level suitable for the uninitiated and it is not clear what audience the book is intended for. At a price of £92 I am unable to recommend it either for private or institutional purchase.

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